#### Washington State Patrol

2003
Citizen Survey
Presentation of Results

#### Washington State University

Division of Governmental Studies and Services

Prepared By:

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Michael J. Gaffney, J.D.

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#### Survey Methodology

- Tested Instrument
  - National, State and Local Applications
- Random Sample(s)
  - Validated Sources
- Three-Wave (Dillman) Mail Process
- Representative Respondents
  - Confirmed Post-administration

### Elements of Systematic Citizen Assessment: 2003

- Series of Surveys:
  - 1992, 1993, 1994-5, 1995-6, 1998, 1999-00, 2003
- Standardized Questions:
  - Evaluation of Current Perceptions of the Agency
  - Trend Analysis of Citizen Perceptions Over Time
- New Section Annually:
  - Customer/Contacts Analysis (2000)
  - Geographic Analysis
  - Minority Citizen Attitudes on Racial Profiling

#### Sampling Plan and Response

Sample Type	Sample	Responses	Rate*
Statewide Random	3,000	1019	35.6%
Statewide Citations	1,000	232	24.2%
Statewide Verbal Warnings	550	156	29.9%
Statewide Written Warnings	1,000	292	30.6%
Statewide "SIPA" Assists	1,000	237	25.4%
Statewide Minority Driver	2,000	371	20.4%
APA-Specific Driver	2,000	528	27.5%
TOTAL	10,550	2838	26.9%

<sup>\*</sup>Calculated after excluding bad addresses

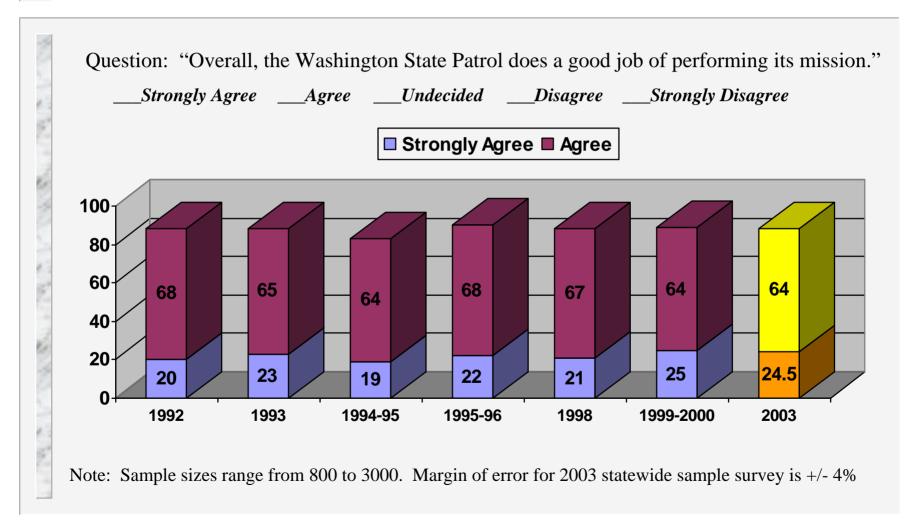
#### Trends in Response Rates

<b>1992</b>	53%
	·

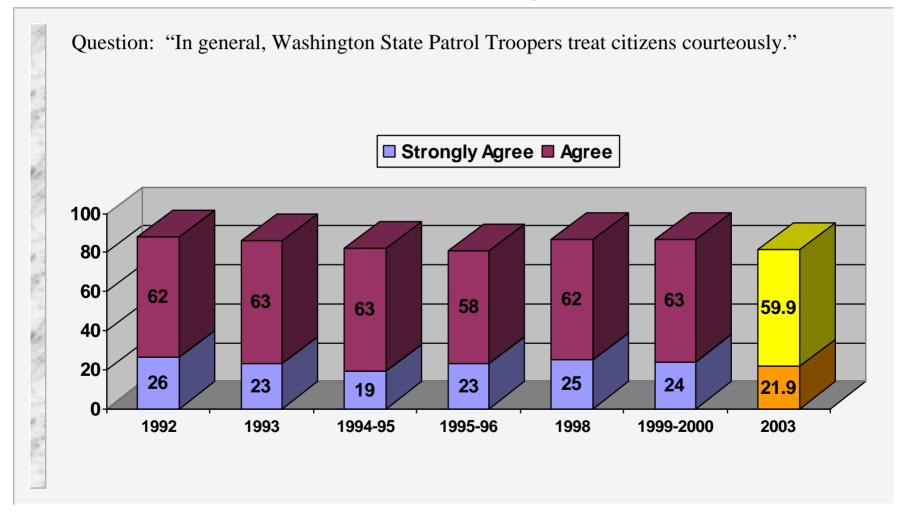
#### Section One

**Trend Analysis** 

### Trend Analysis: WSP Mission Performance



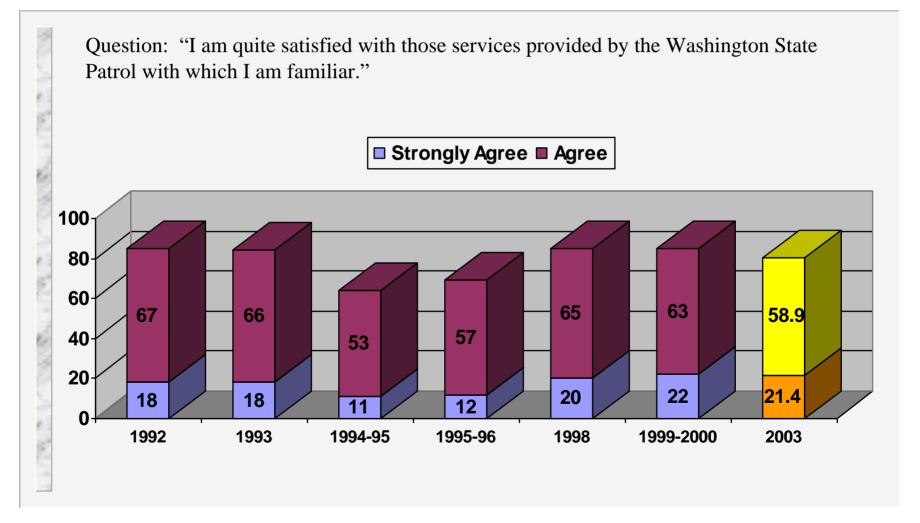
### Trend Analysis: WSP Officer Courtesy



### Trend Analysis: WSP Ethnic Neutrality

Question: "The Washington State Patrol typically treats citizens the same regardless of their ethnic background." ■ Strongly Agree
■ Agree 40-42.4 13.4 1994-95 1995-96 1999-2000 

#### Trend Analysis: Citizen Satisfaction With Services



### Trend Analysis: Drunk Driving Enforcement

Question: "With regard to the enforcement of drinking and driving laws, the Washington State Patrol is doing a good job of removing drunk drivers from state highways." ■ Strongly Agree
■ Agree 55.4 1994-95 1995-96 1999-2000 

### Trend Analysis: WSP Fairness Among Cited Drivers

Question: "Receiving a traffic citation (ticket) is never a pleasant experience. If you have ever received a traffic ticket from a WSP Trooper, did you feel you were treated fairly?" Percent of Cited Drivers Reporting Having Been Treated Fairly **1994-95 1995-96 1999-2000 75.6** 1994-95 1995-96 1999-2000

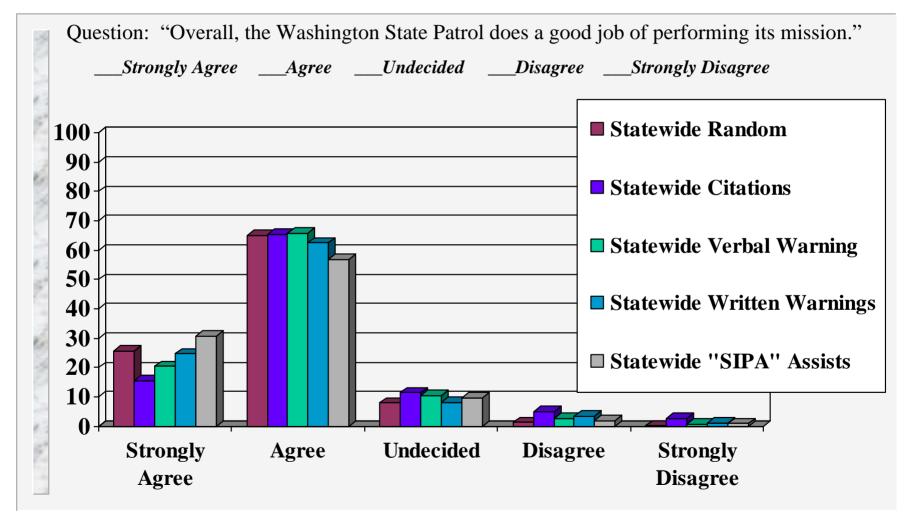
#### Section Two

Contacted Driver Responses

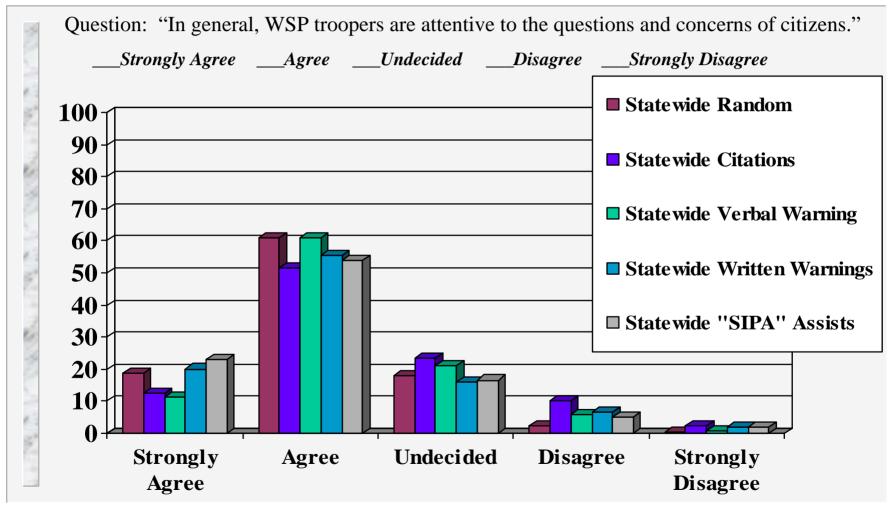
#### Drivers Contacted by WSP

- Drivers Rendered Assistance (n=1323)
- Drivers Given Warning (n=1510)
- Drivers Issued Citation
  - One (n=520)
  - Two (n=101)
  - More than two (n=31)

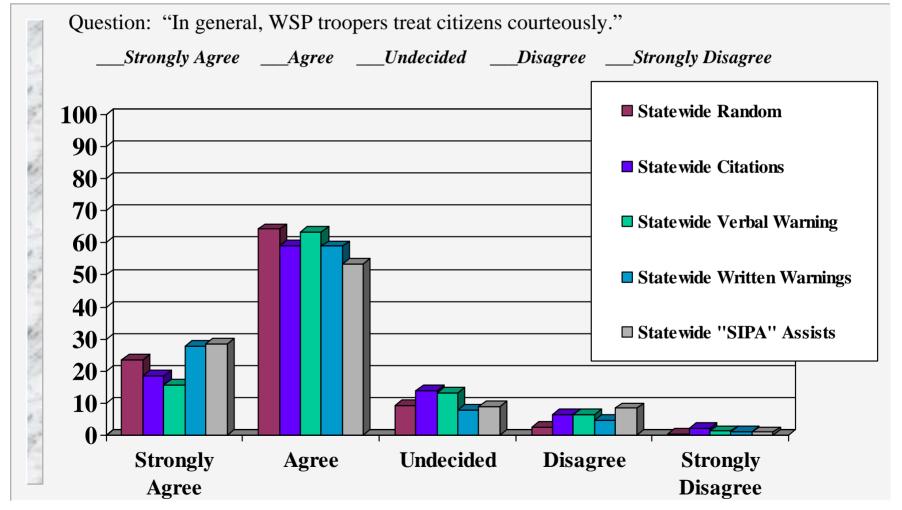
### Statewide Samples: Mission Performance



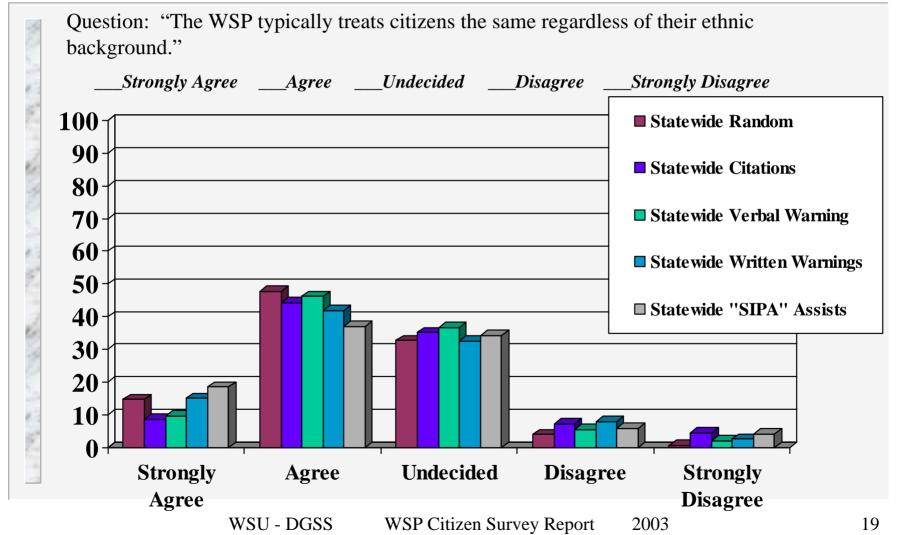
### Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Attentive to Citizens



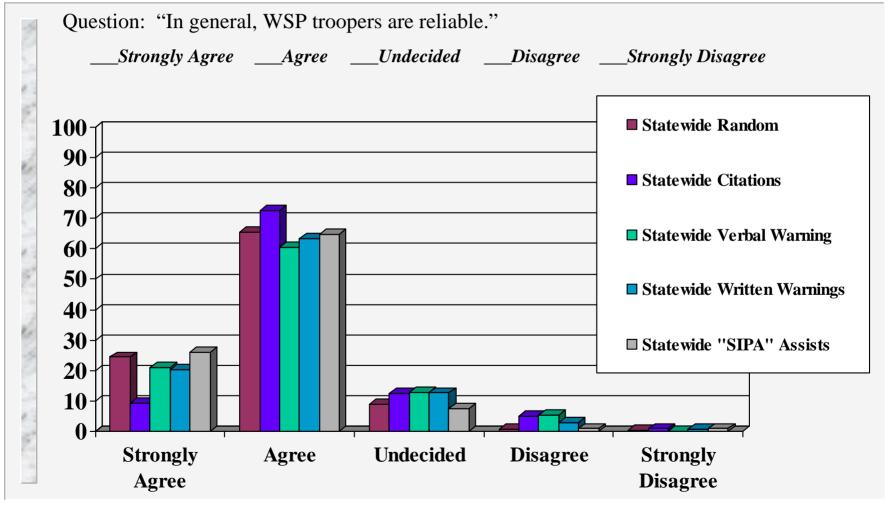
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Courteous



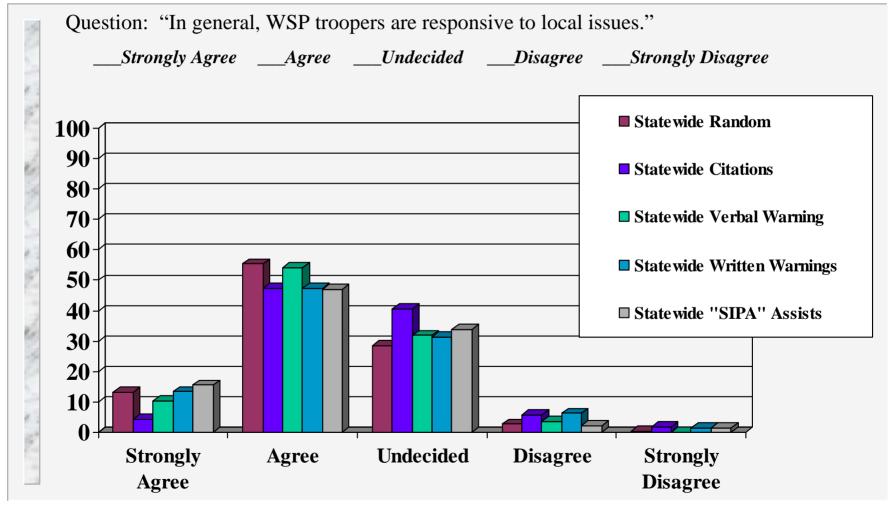
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Neutral



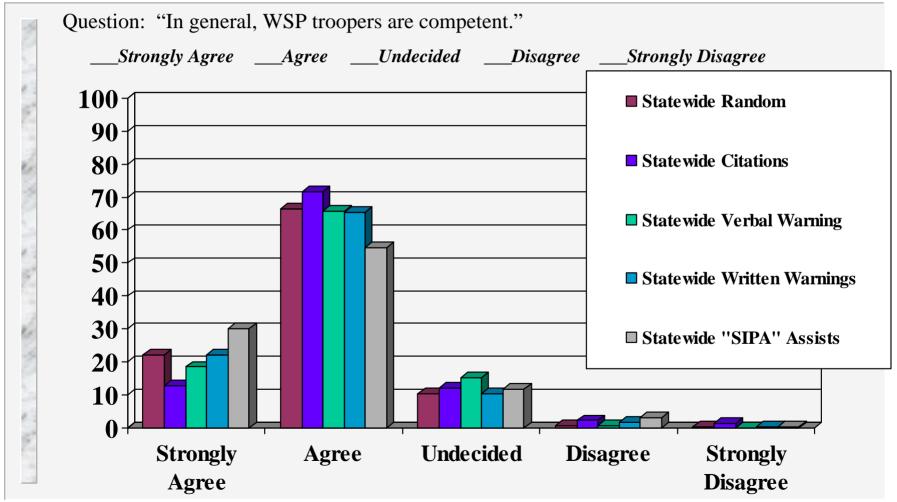
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Reliable



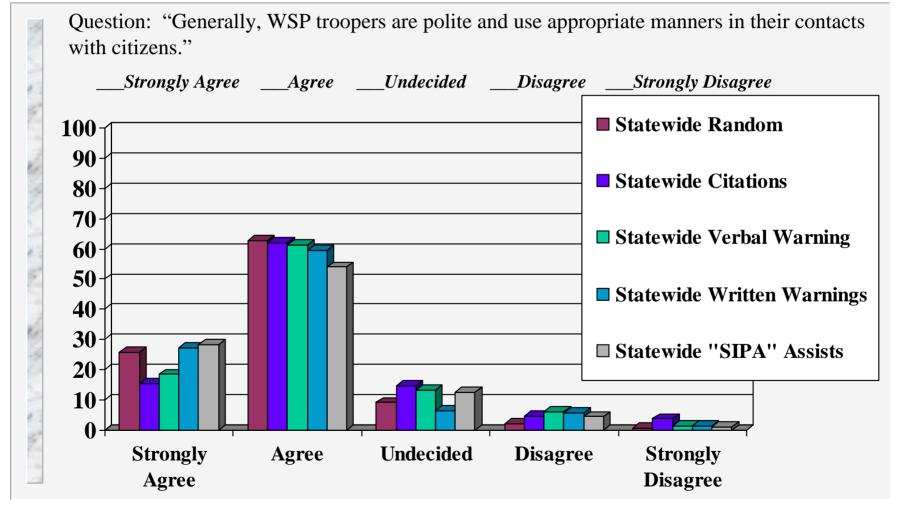
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Responsive



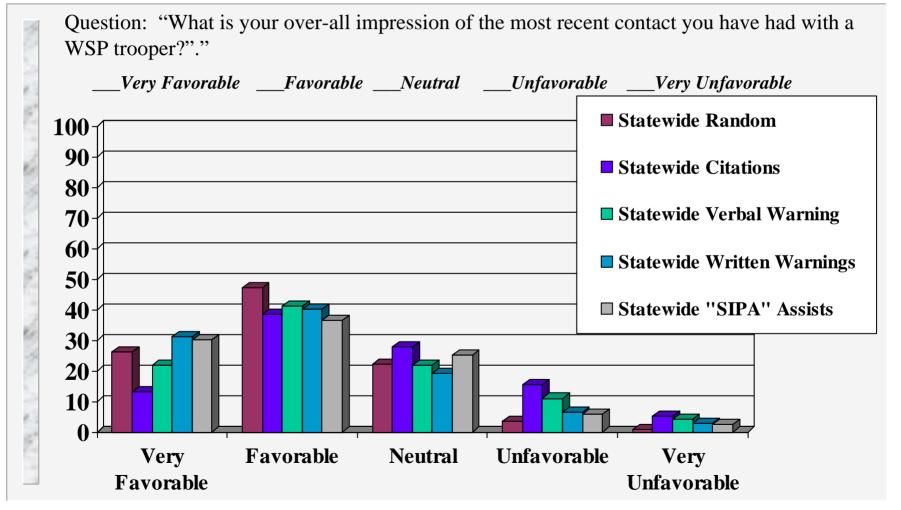
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Competent



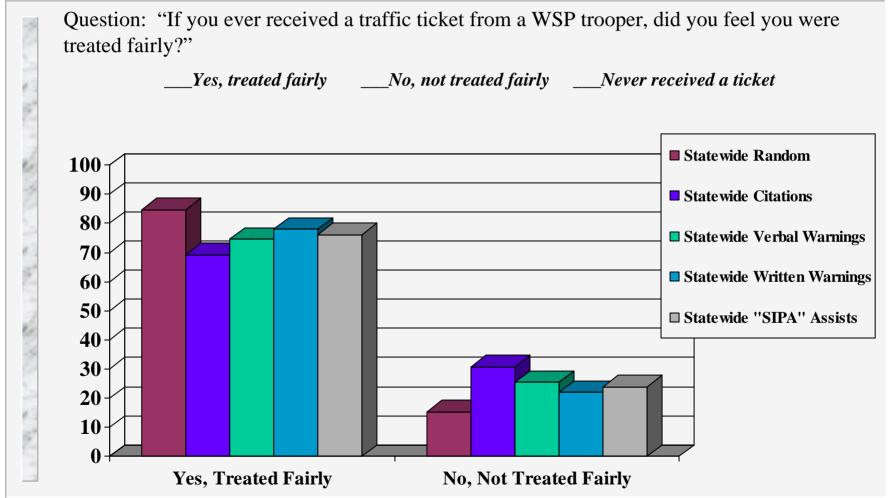
# Statewide Samples: WSP Troopers Polite



### Statewide Samples: Impression of Contact with WSP



### Statewide Samples: Fair Treatment by WSP



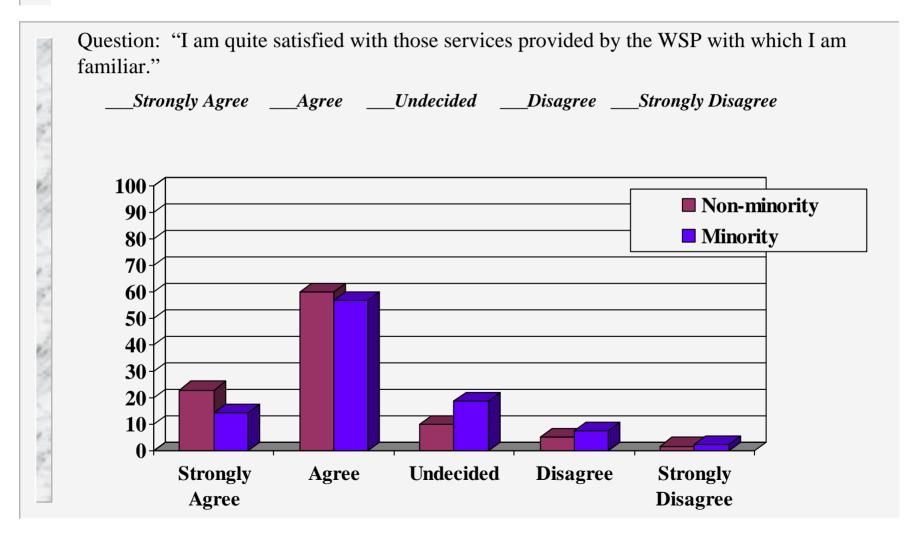
#### Section Three

Minority and APA Responses

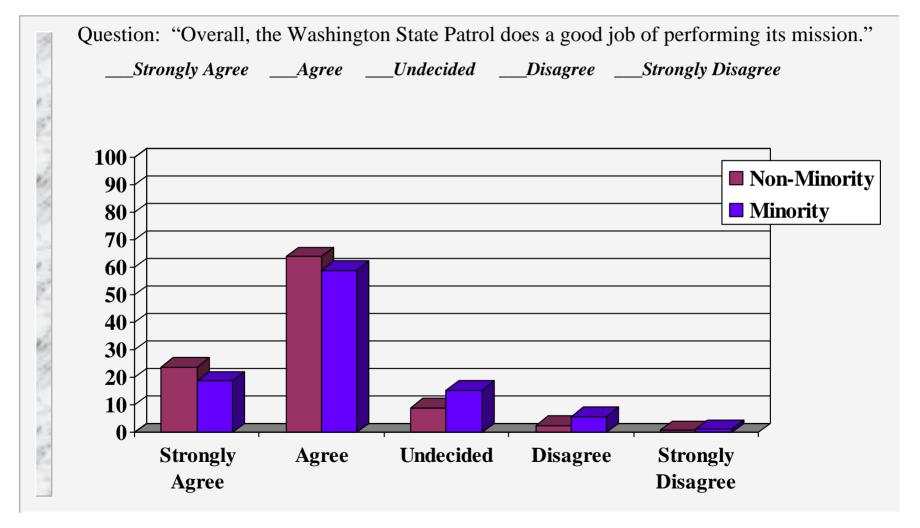
#### Minority and Geographic Samples

- Statewide Minority Driver Sample (2003)
  - Drivers with contact by WSP (all types)
  - Coded as other than "White"
- Selected APA's (2003)
  - *-* 11/12, 14, 23, 26, 30, 35
  - Selection Based on Preliminary Analysis of Stop Data
  - Drivers with contact by WSP

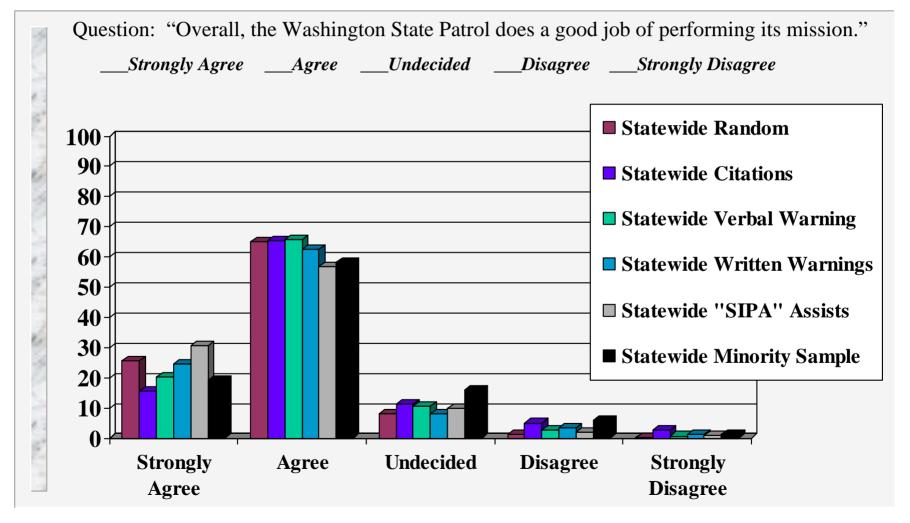
#### Customer Satisfaction With Service



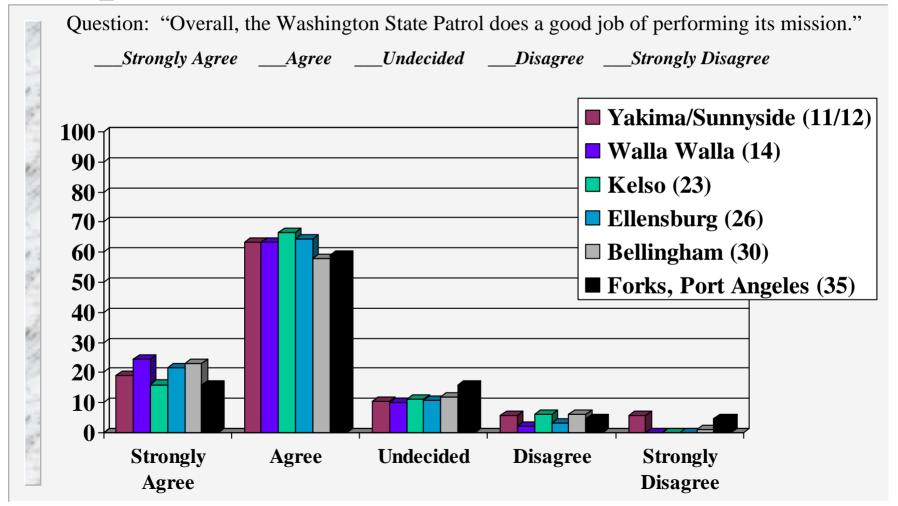
#### Mission Performance



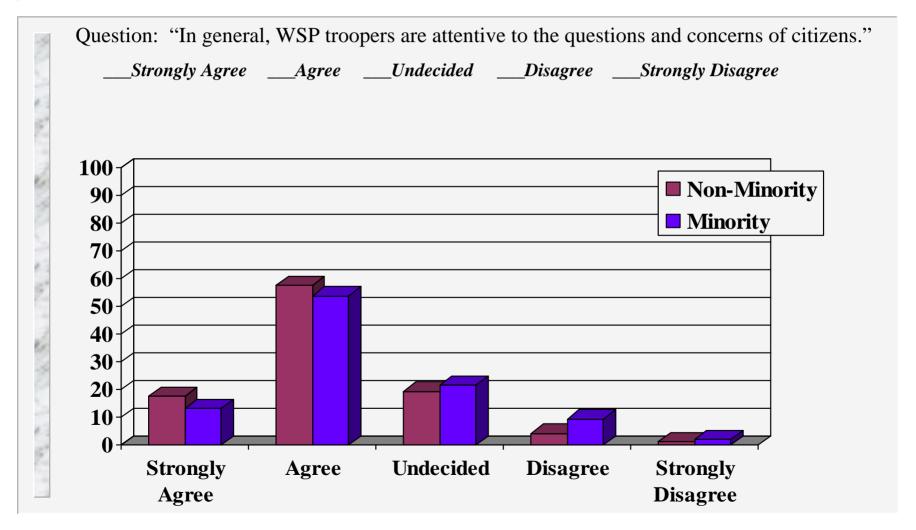
### Comparison: Mission Performance



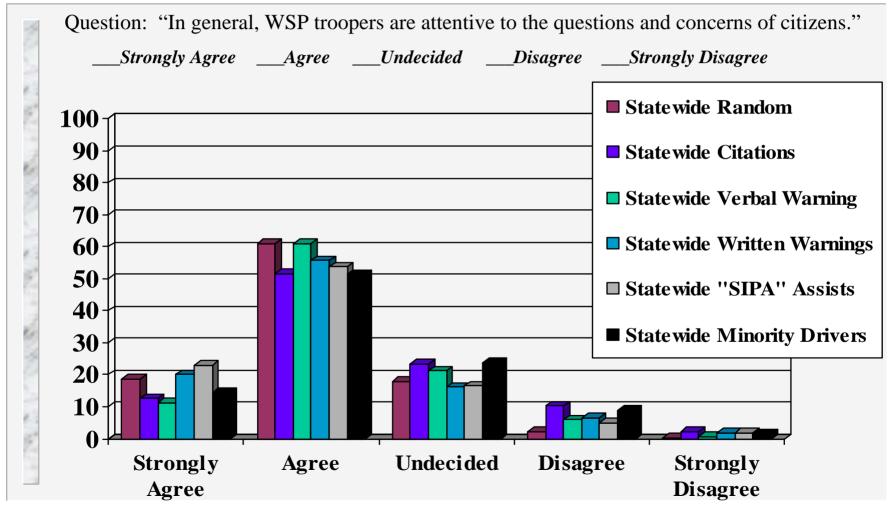
# Mission Performance (APA-Specific)



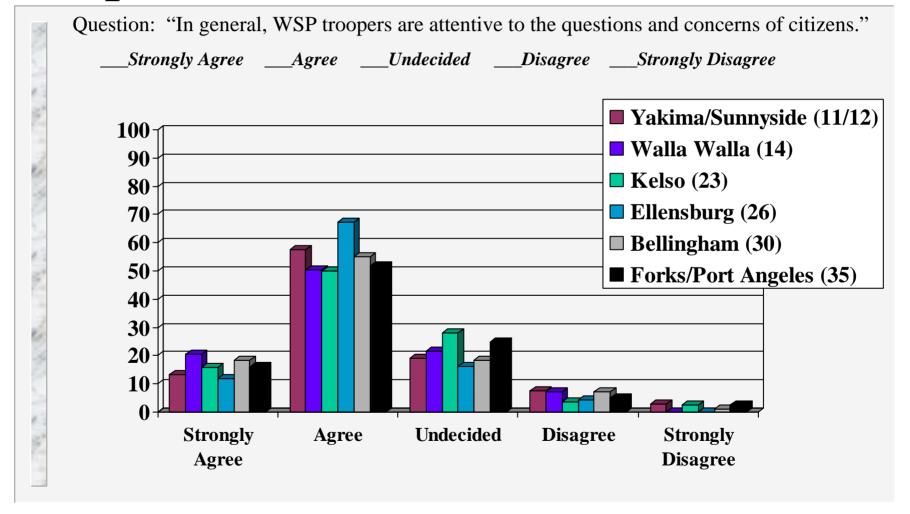
#### WSP Troopers Attentive



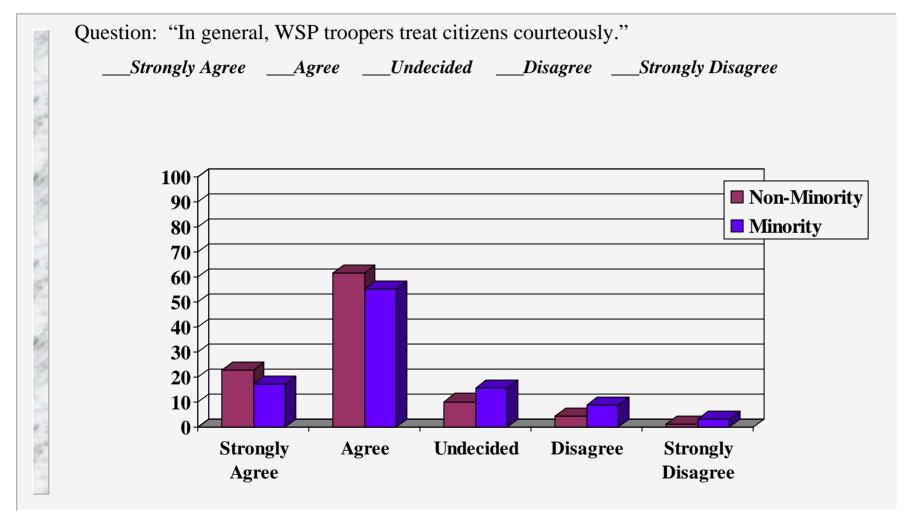
# Comparison: WSP Troopers Attentive



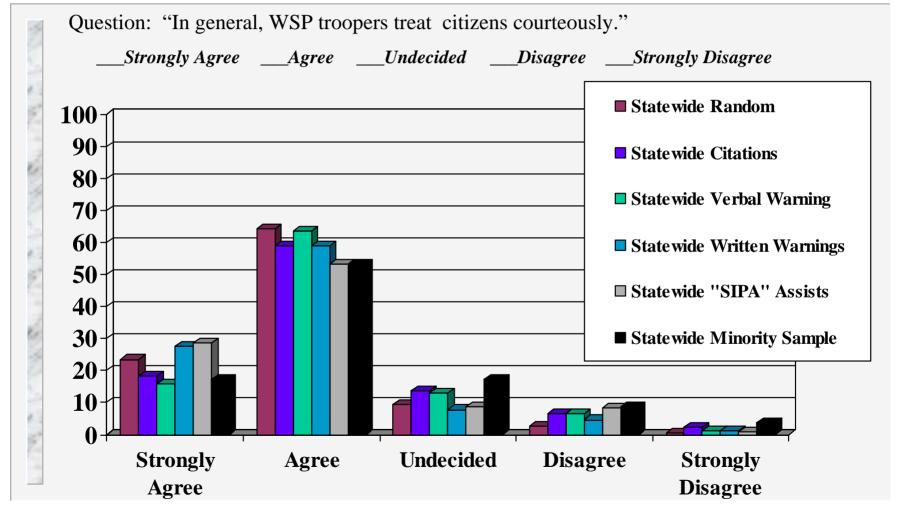
# WSP Troopers Attentive (APA-Specific)



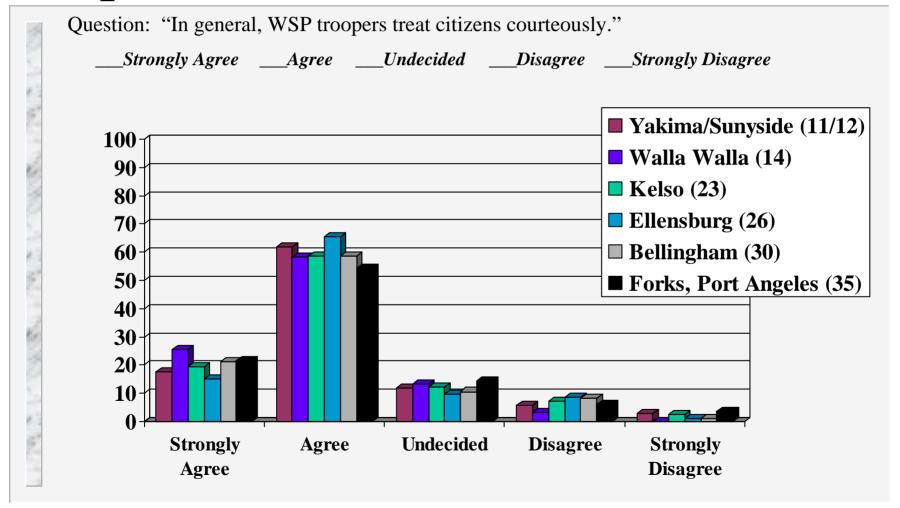
#### WSP Troopers Courteous



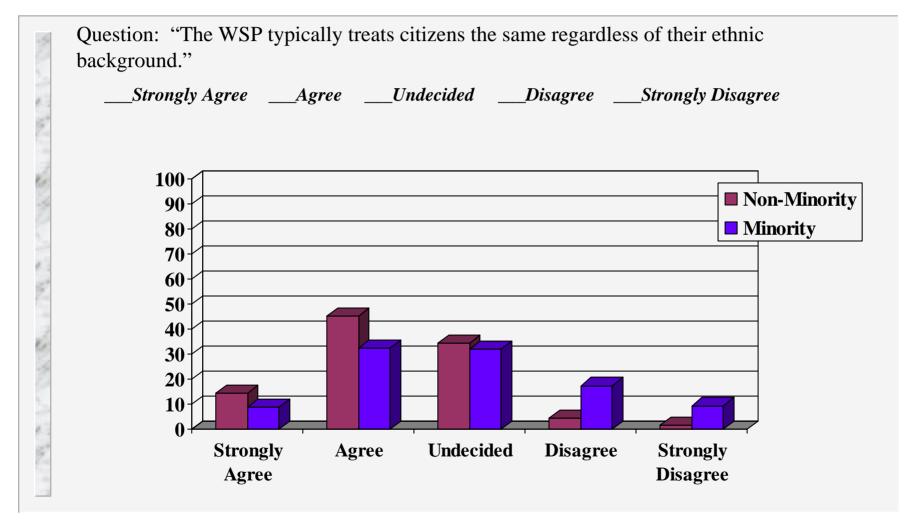
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Courteous



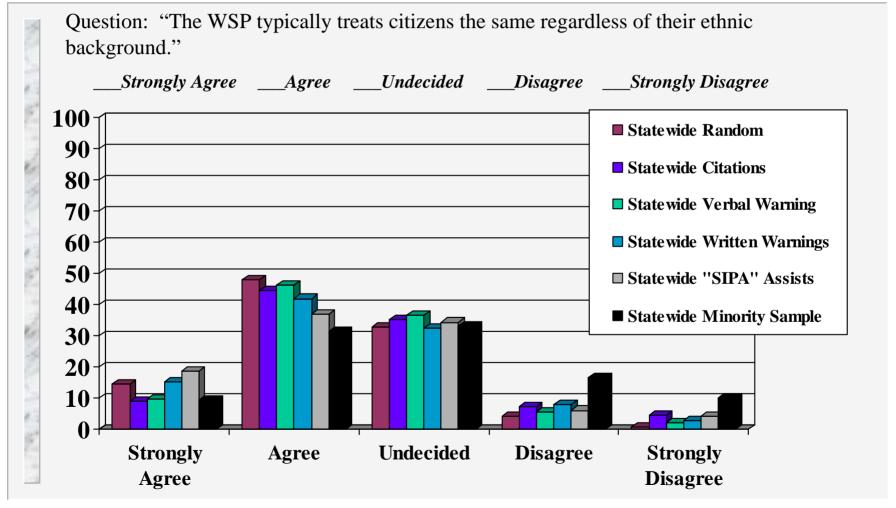
## WSP Troopers Courteous (APA-Specific)



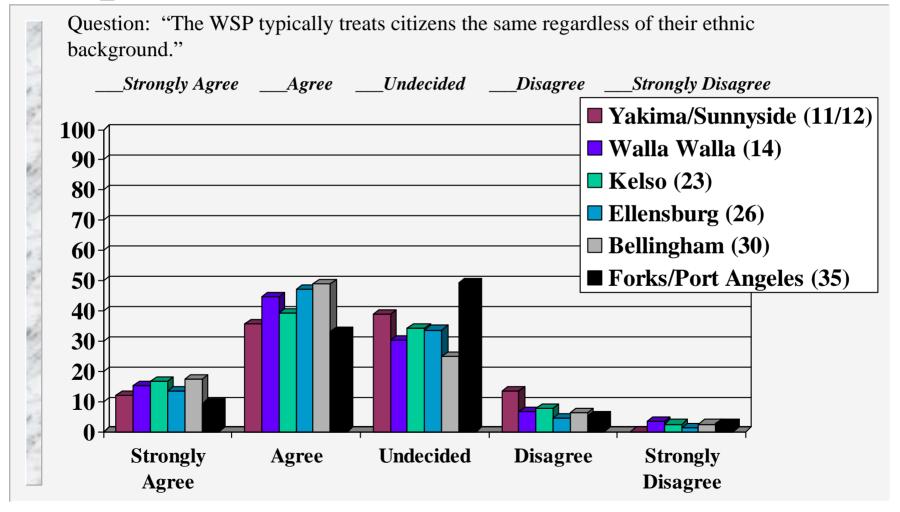
### WSP Troopers Neutral



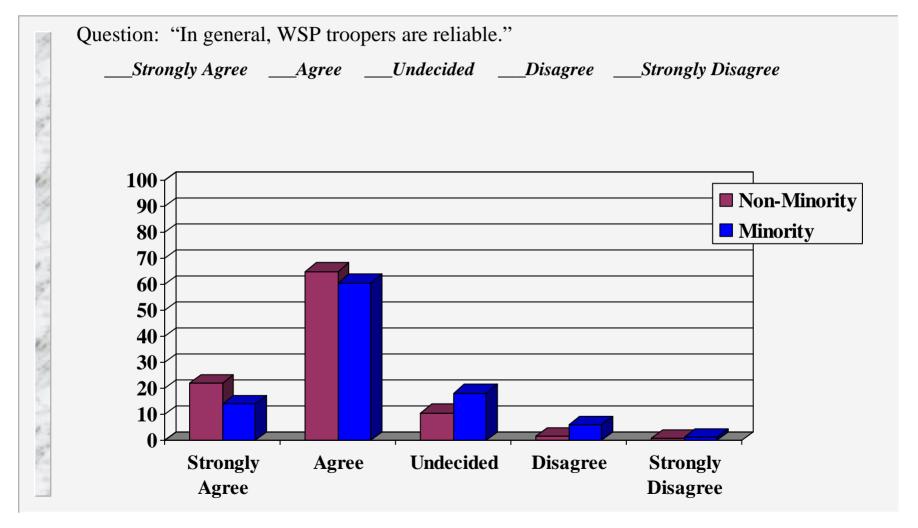
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Neutral



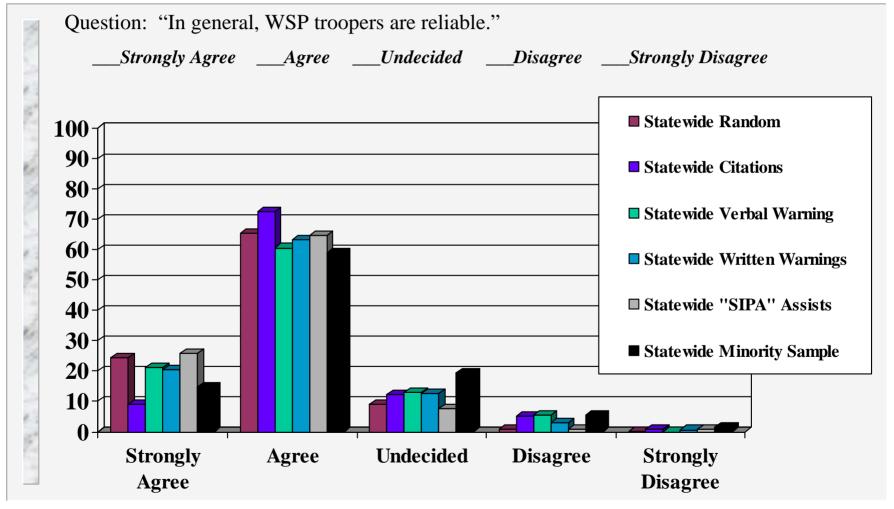
## WSP Troopers Neutral (APA-Specific)



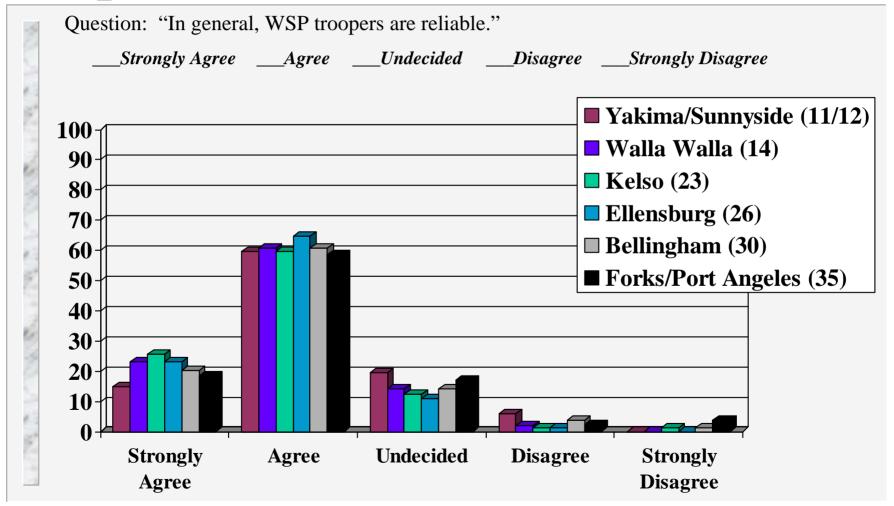
### WSP Troopers Reliable



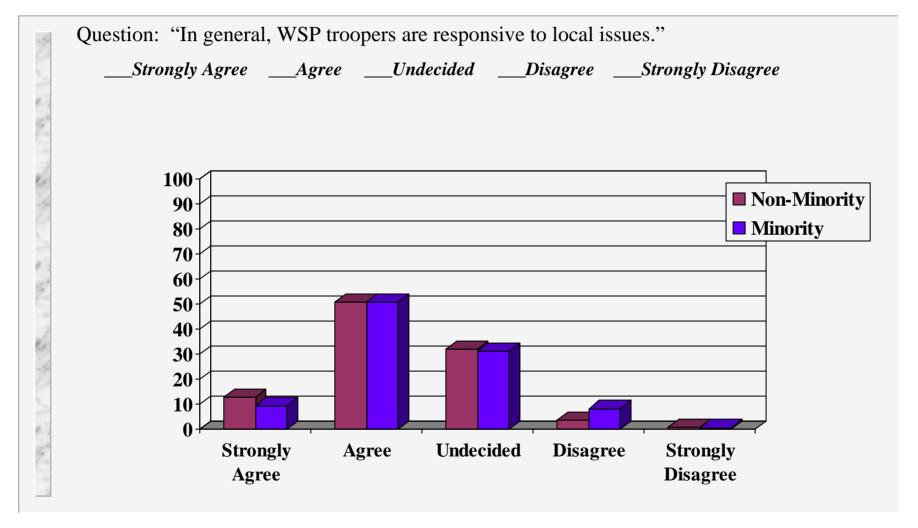
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Reliable



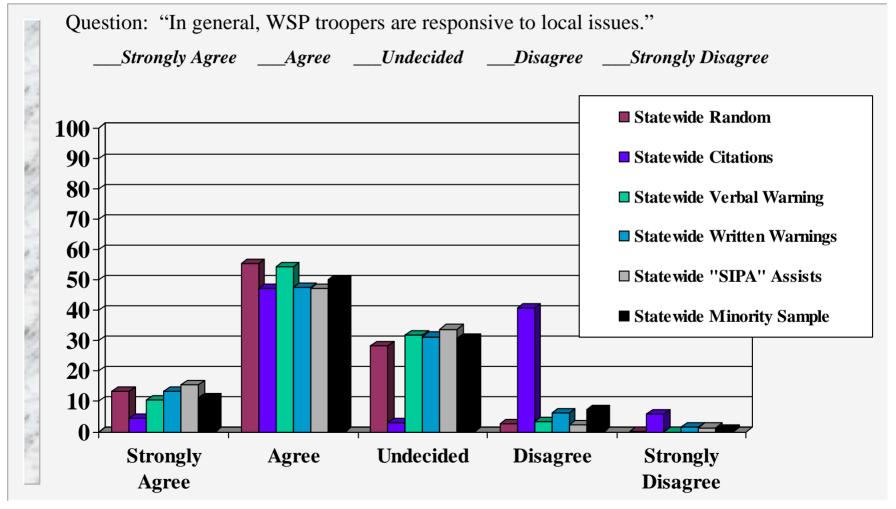
## WSP Troopers Reliable (APA-Specific)



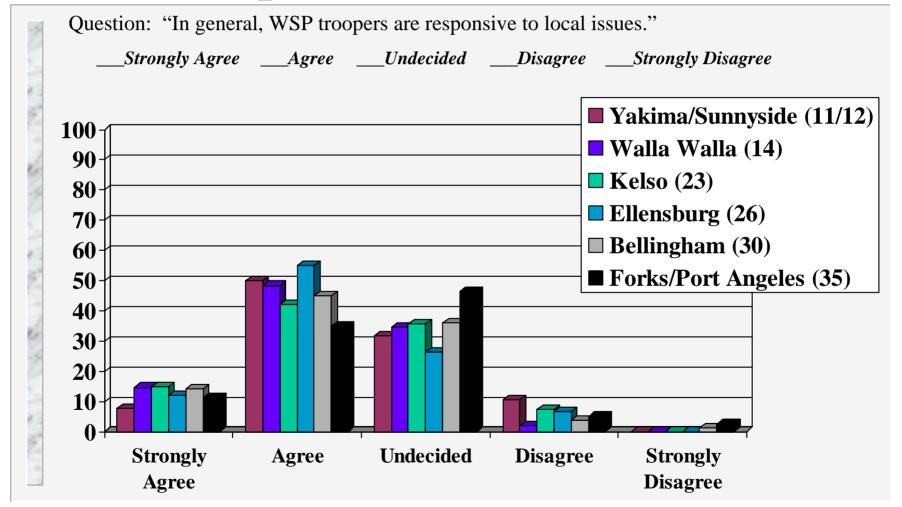
### WSP Troopers Responsive



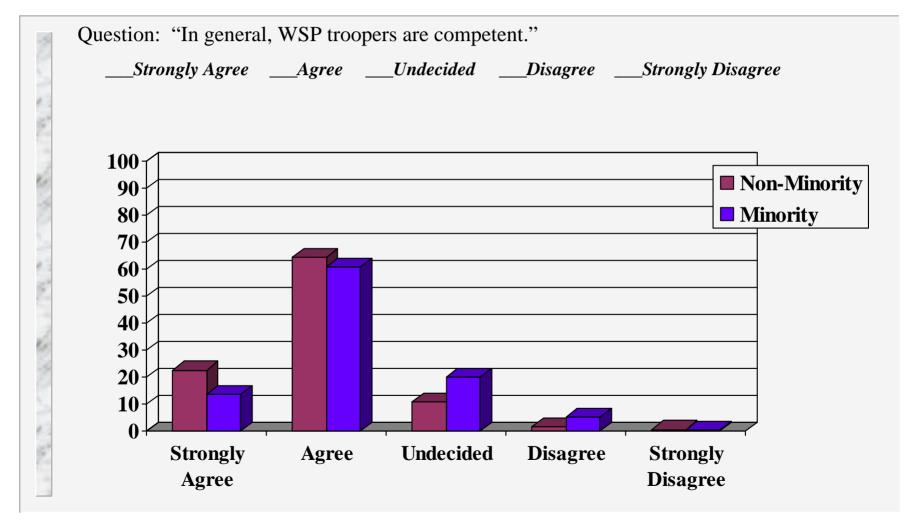
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Responsive



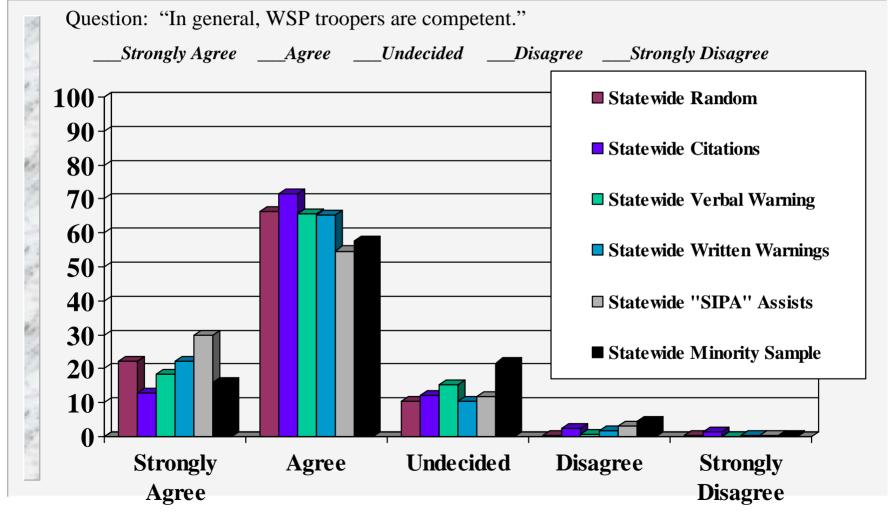
## WSP Troopers Responsive (APA-Specific)



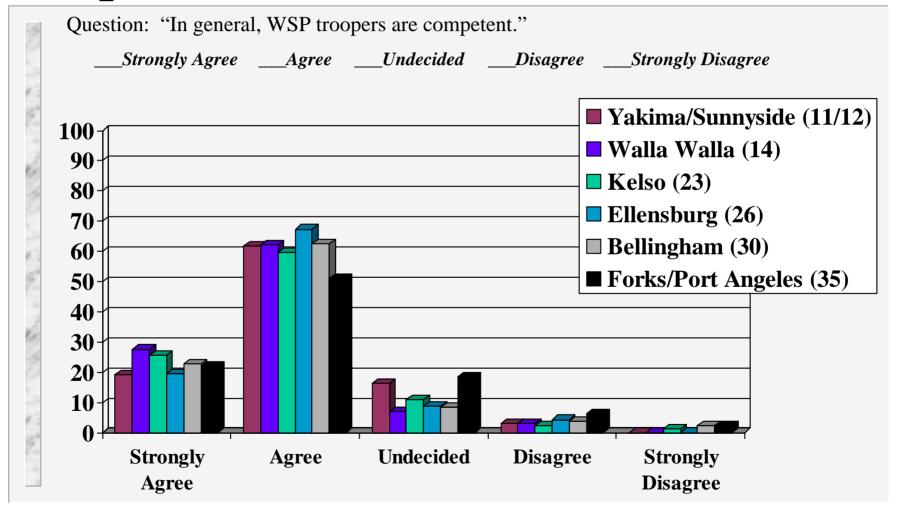
### WSP Troopers Competent



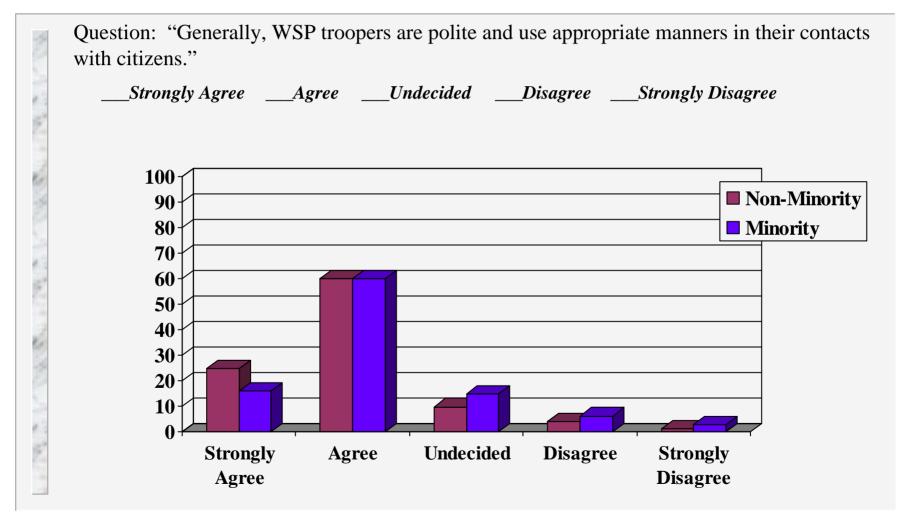
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Competent



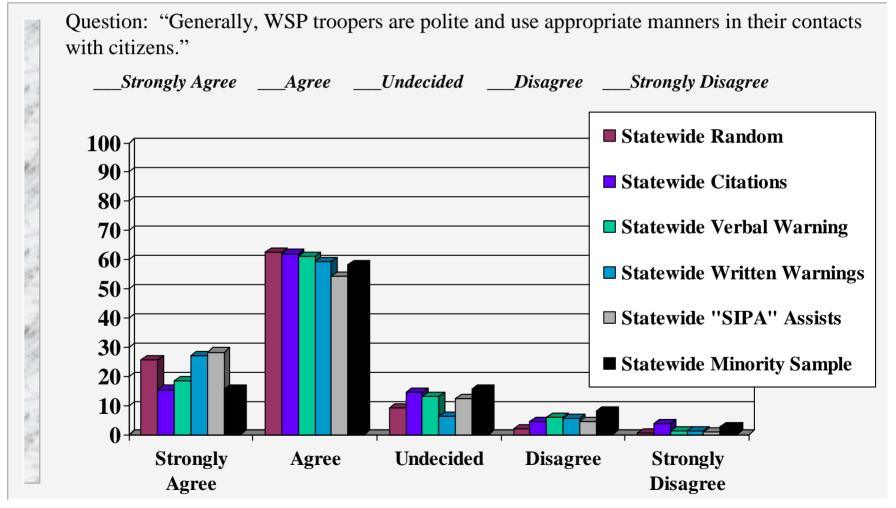
## WSP Troopers Competent (APA-Specific)



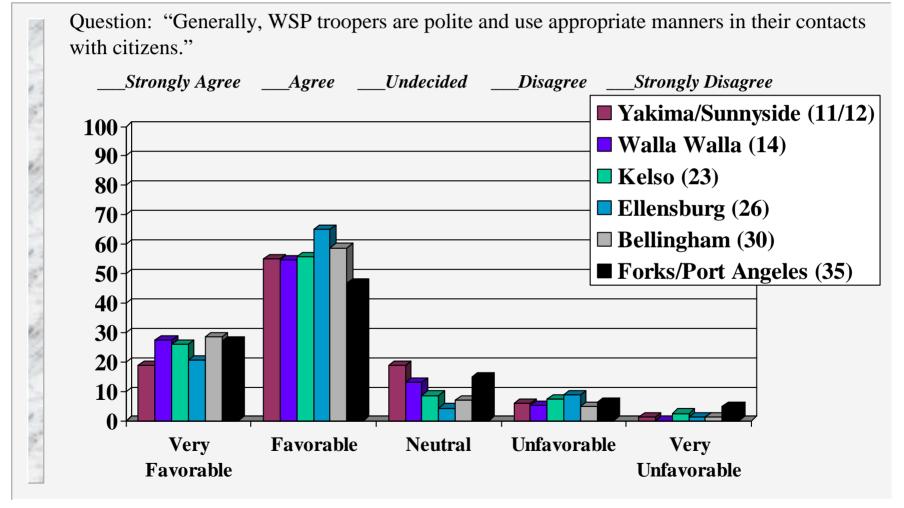
### WSP Troopers Polite



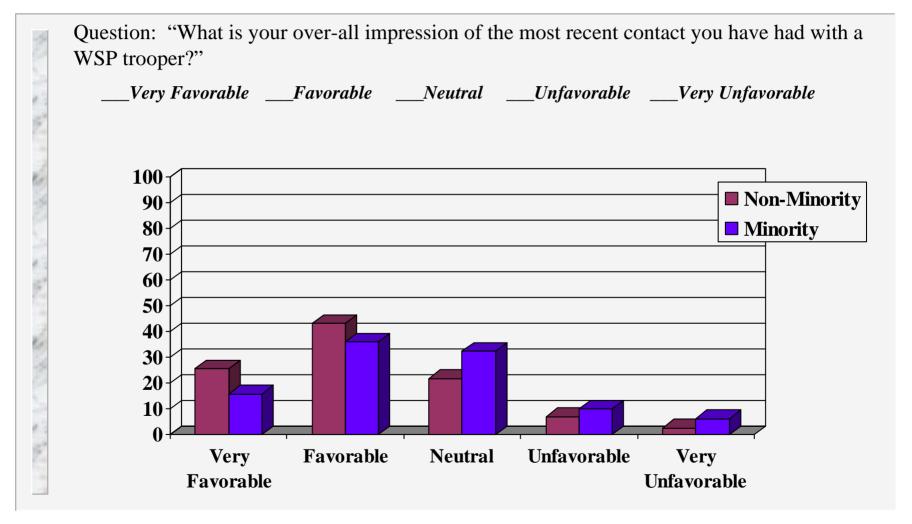
## Comparison: WSP Troopers Polite



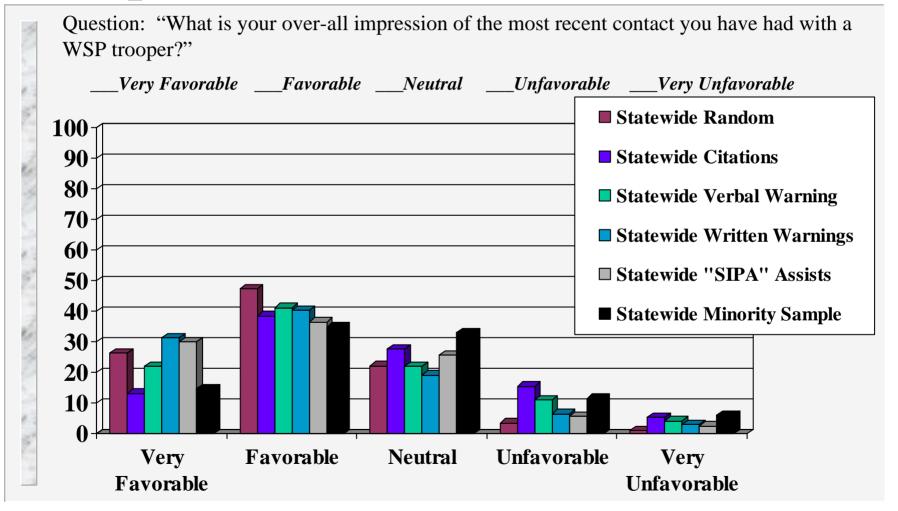
## WSP Troopers Polite (APA-Specific)



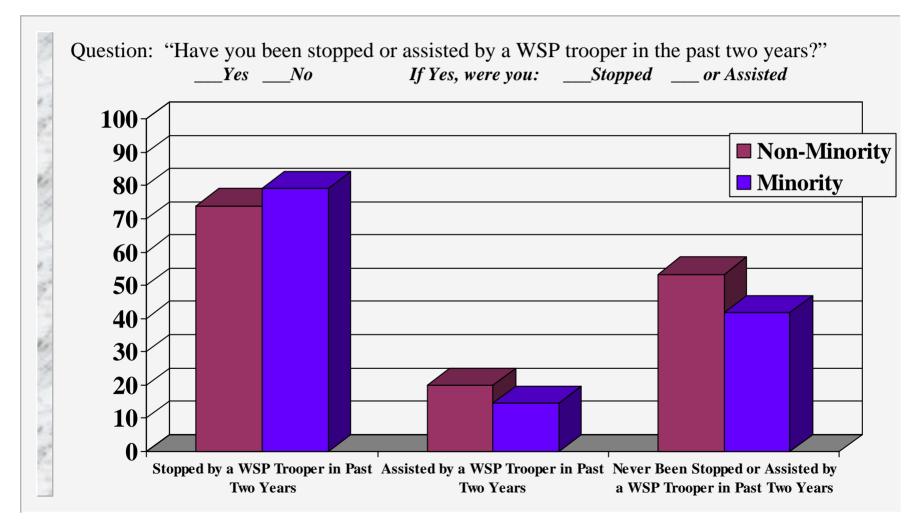
### Impression of Contact with WSP



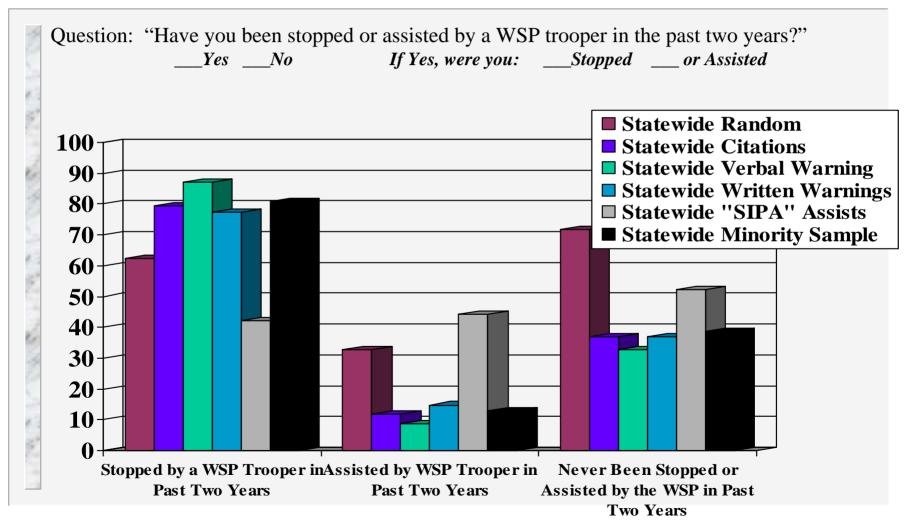
### Comparison: Impression of Contact with WSP



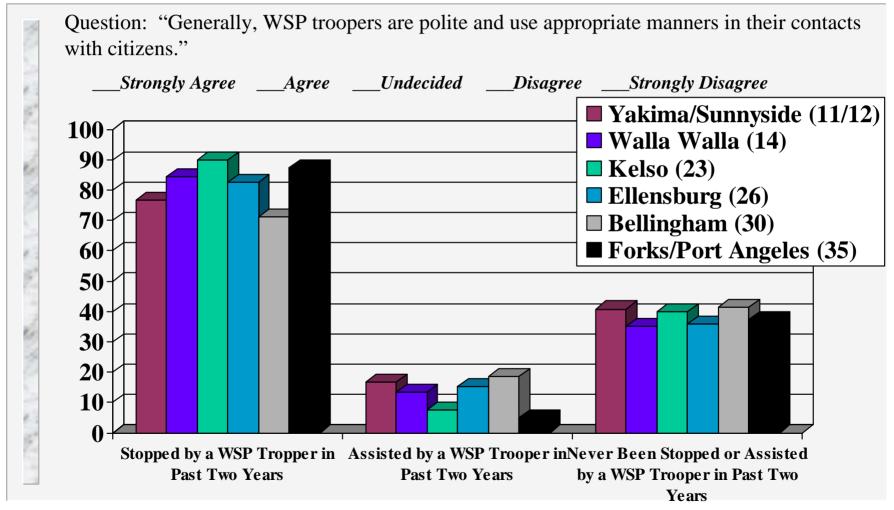
## Comparison: Stopped or Assisted in Past Two Years



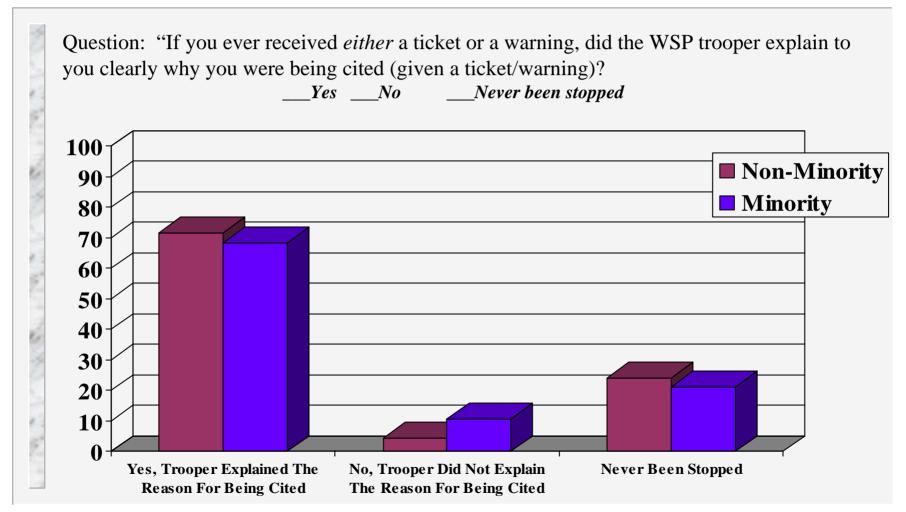
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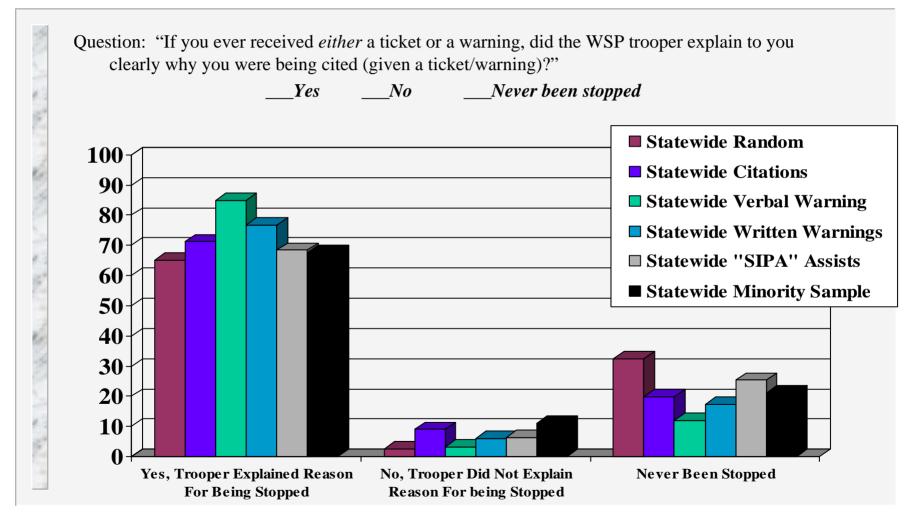
## Stopped or Assisted (APA-Specific)



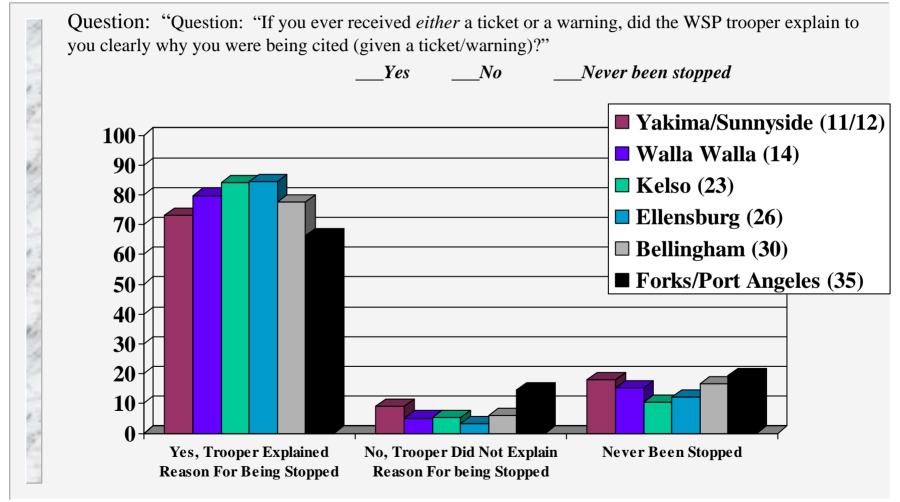
## Comparison: Explanation After Receiving a Warning/Ticket



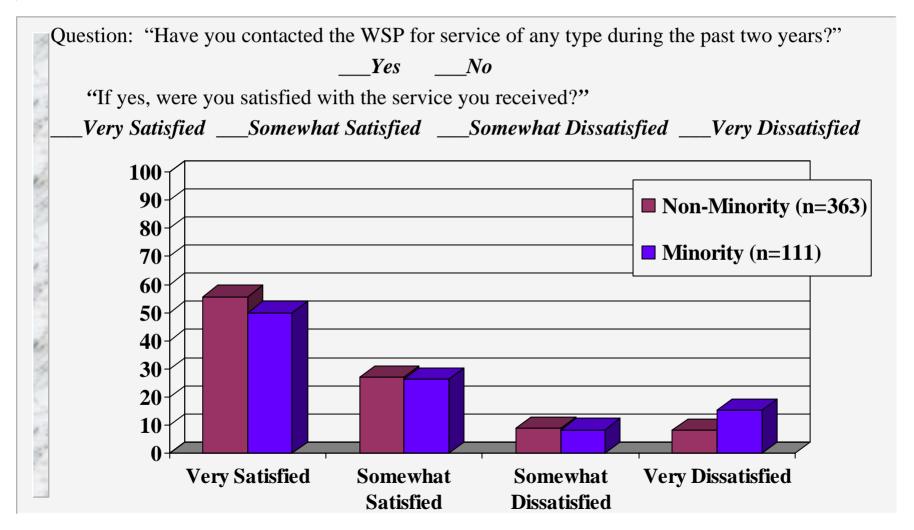
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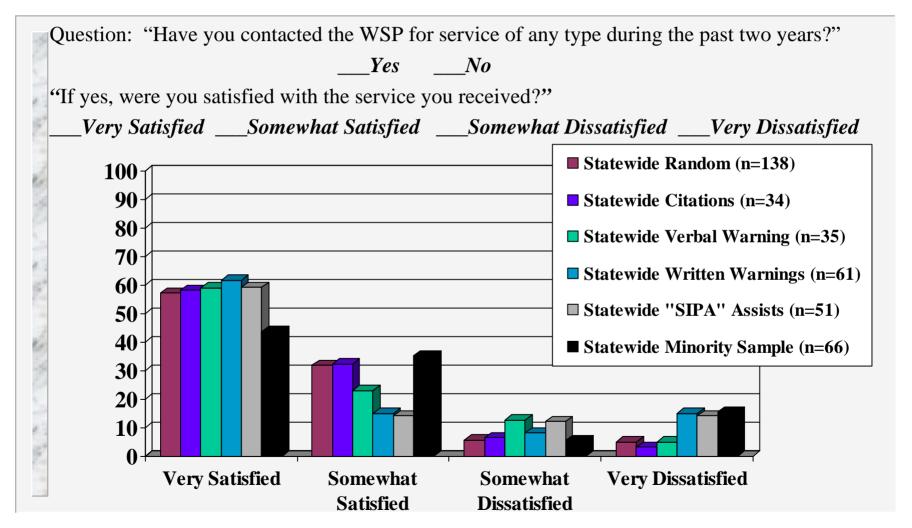
# Explanation After Receiving a Ticket (APA-Specific)



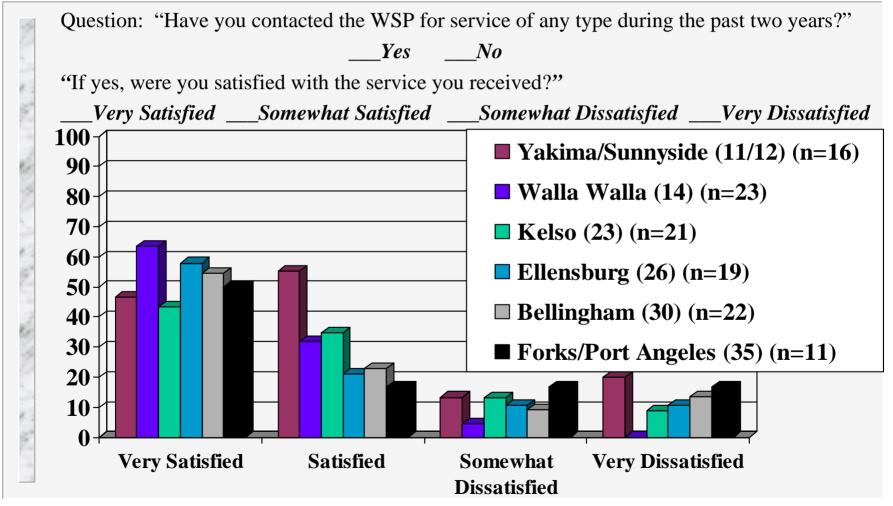
#### Contact With WSP For Service



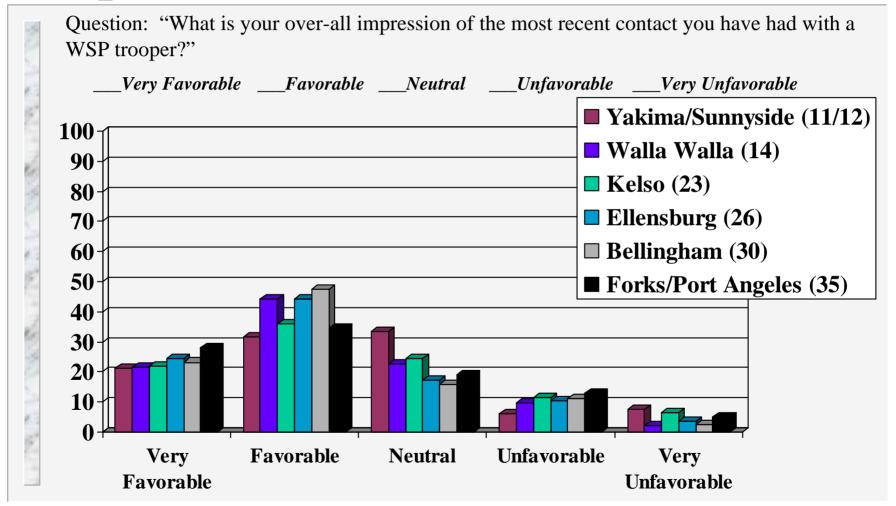
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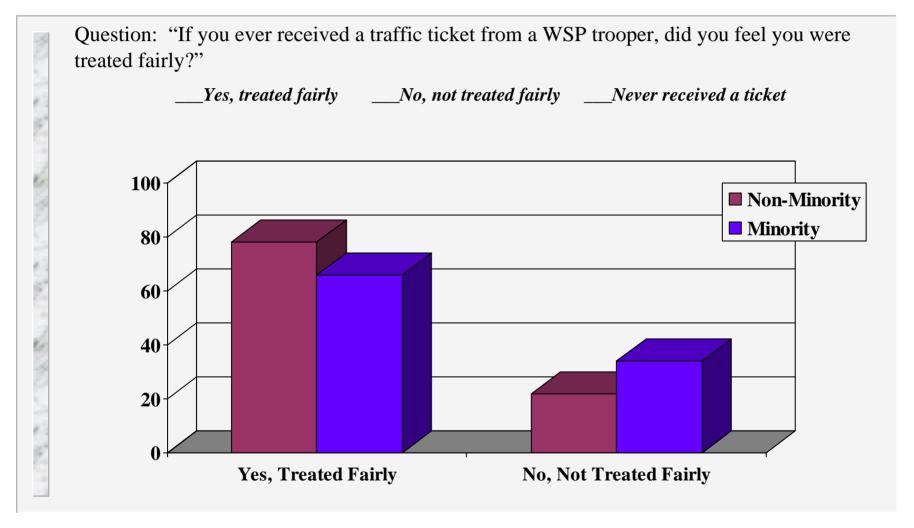
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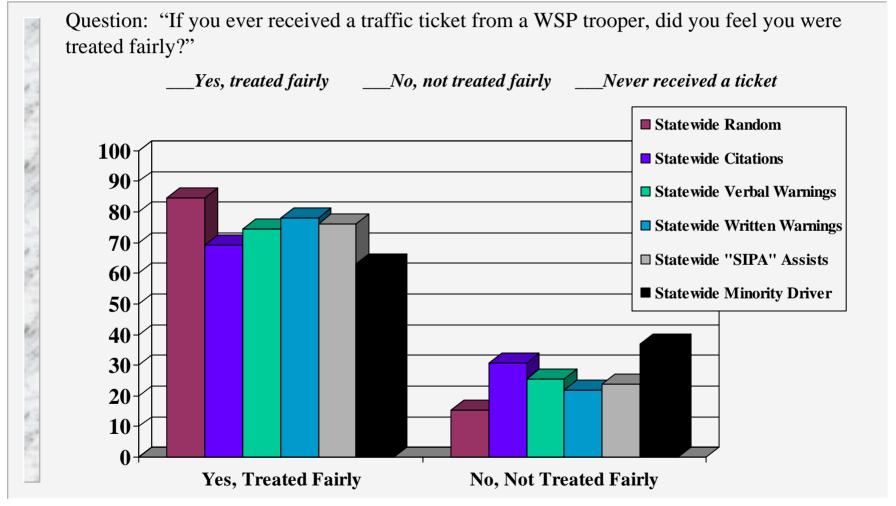
## WSP Troopers Contact (APA-Specific)



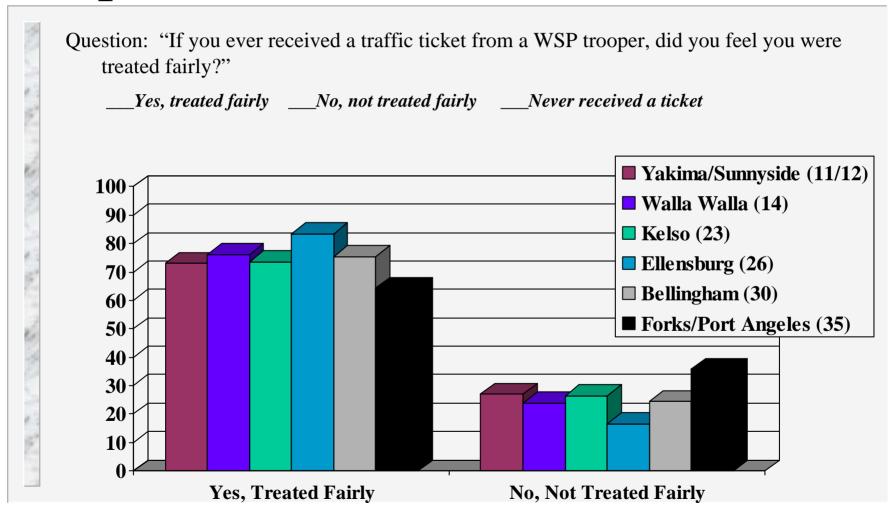
### Fair Treatment by WSP



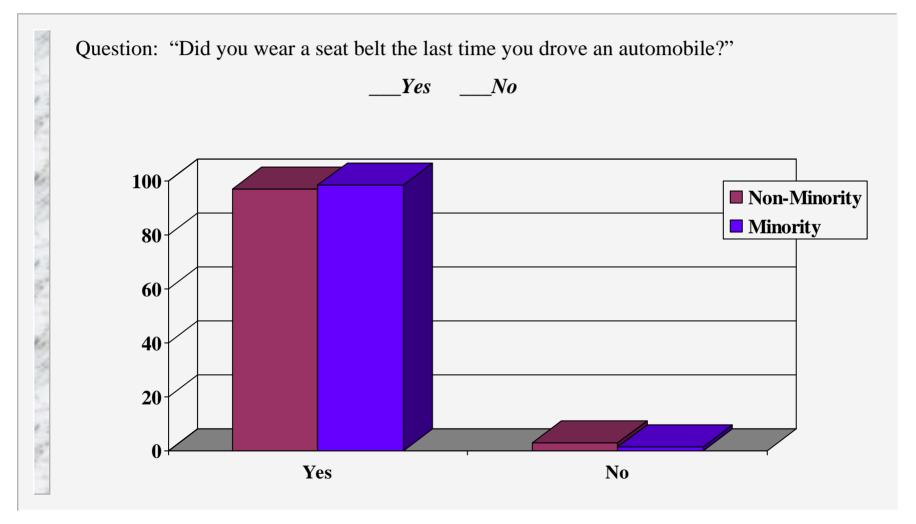
### Comparison: Fair Treatment by WSP



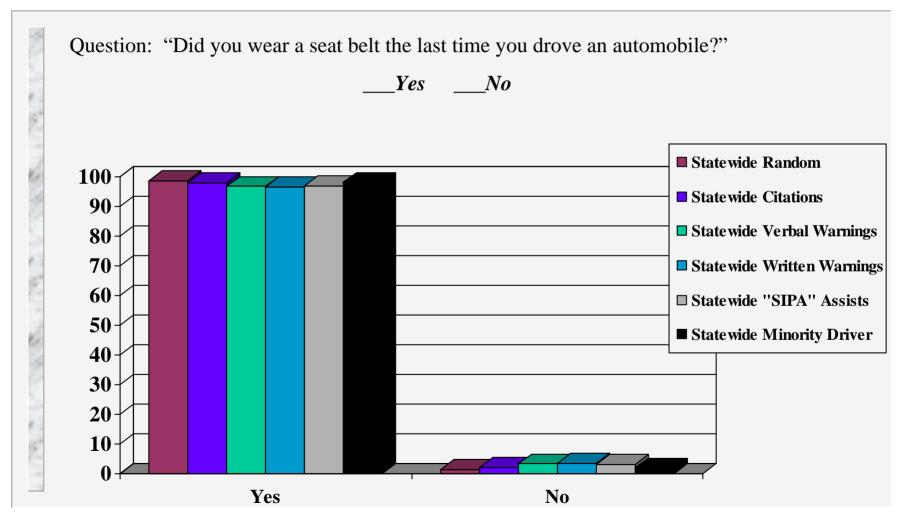
## Fair Treatment by WSP (APA-Specific)



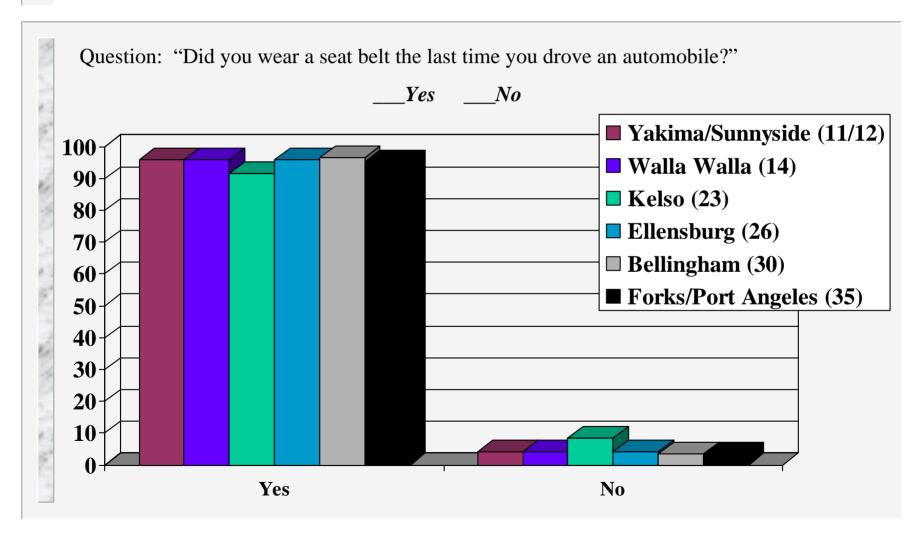
### Seat Belt Usage



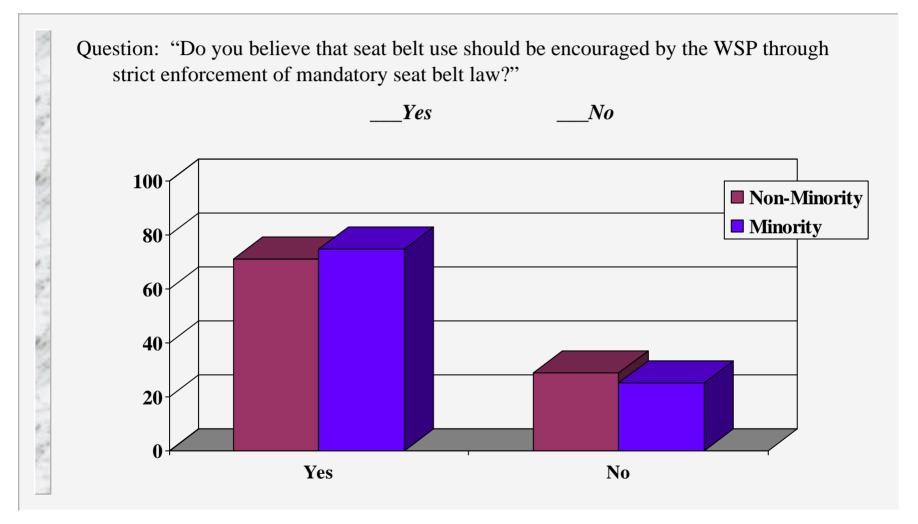
### Seat Belt Usage



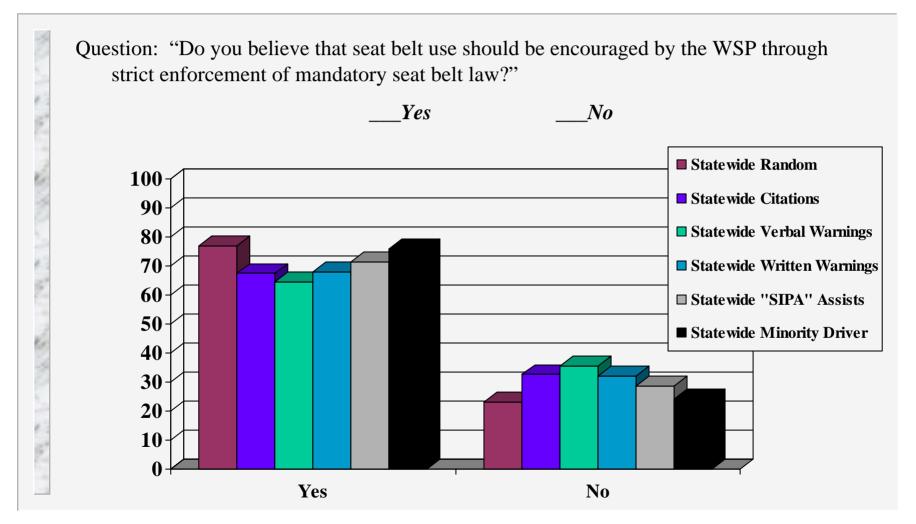
### Seat Belt Usage (APA-Specific)



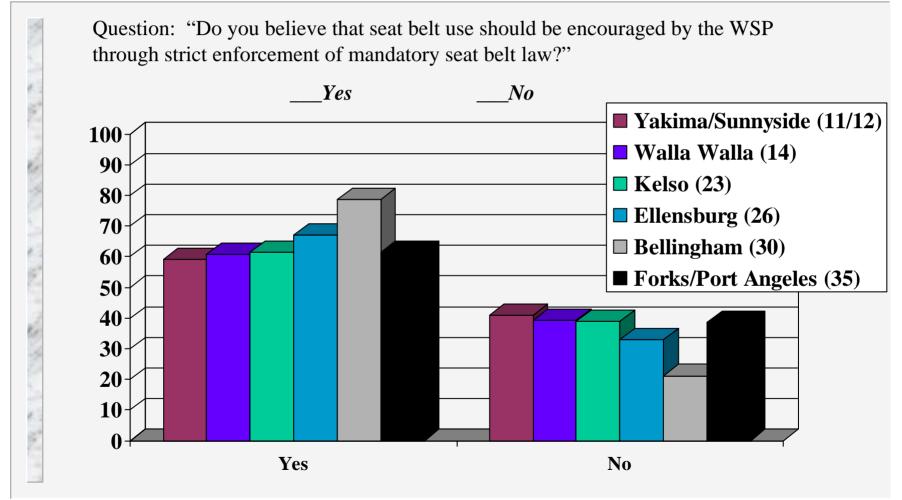
## Strict Enforcement of Seat Belt Laws



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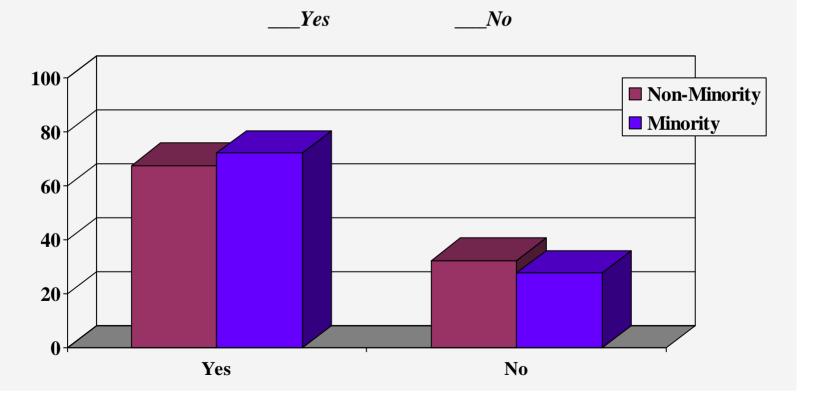


# Strict Enforcement of Seat Belt Laws (APA-Specific)

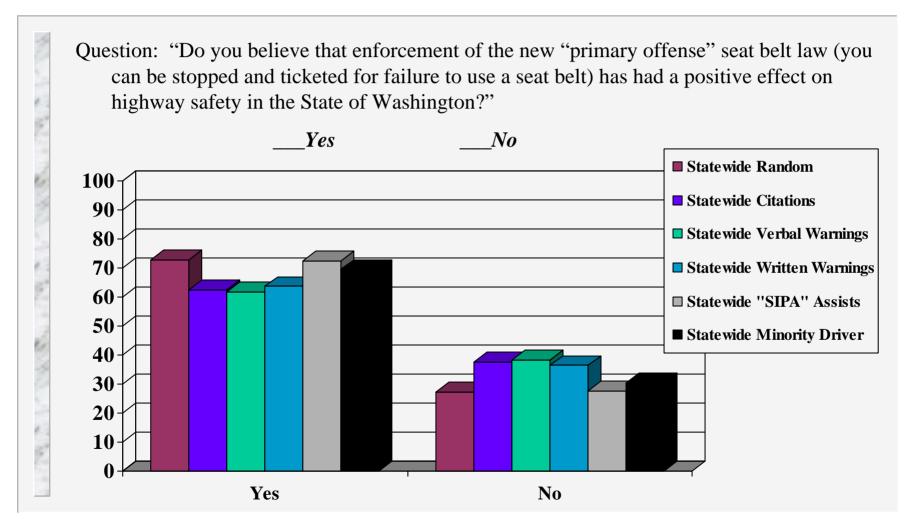


### "Primary Offense" Seat Belt Law

Question: "Do you believe that enforcement of the new "primary offense" seat belt law (you can be stopped and ticketed for failure to use a seat belt) has had a positive effect on highway safety in the State of Washington?"

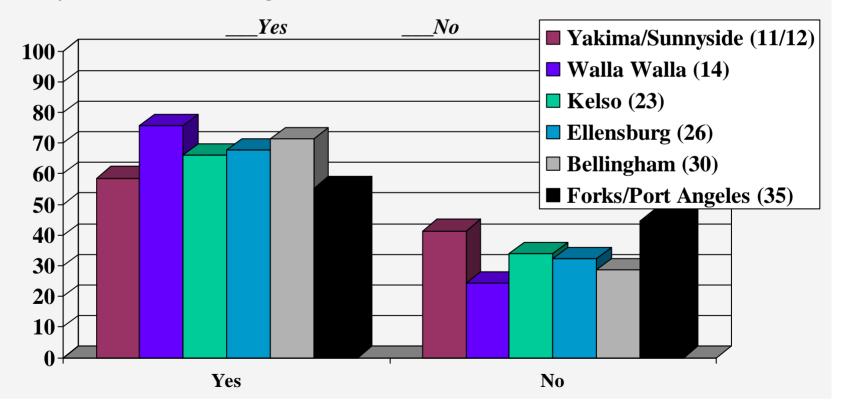


### "Primary Offense" Seat Belt Law



# "Primary Offense" Seat Belt Law (APA-Specific)

Question: "Do you believe that enforcement of the new "primary offense" seat belt law (you can be stopped and ticketed for failure to use a seat belt) has had a positive effect on highway safety in the State of Washington?"



### Section Four

Searches

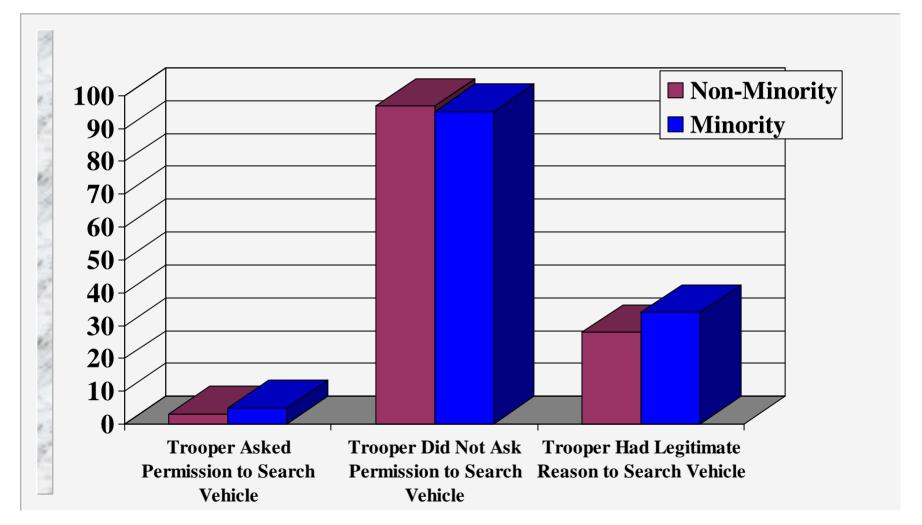
#### Driver Contact Responses Vehicle Search

- Trooper did not ask permission to search vehicle (n=2415)
- Trooper asked permission to search vehicle (n=88)
- Trooper had legitimate reason to search vehicle (n=49)
- Trooper did not have legitimate reason to search vehicle (n=111)

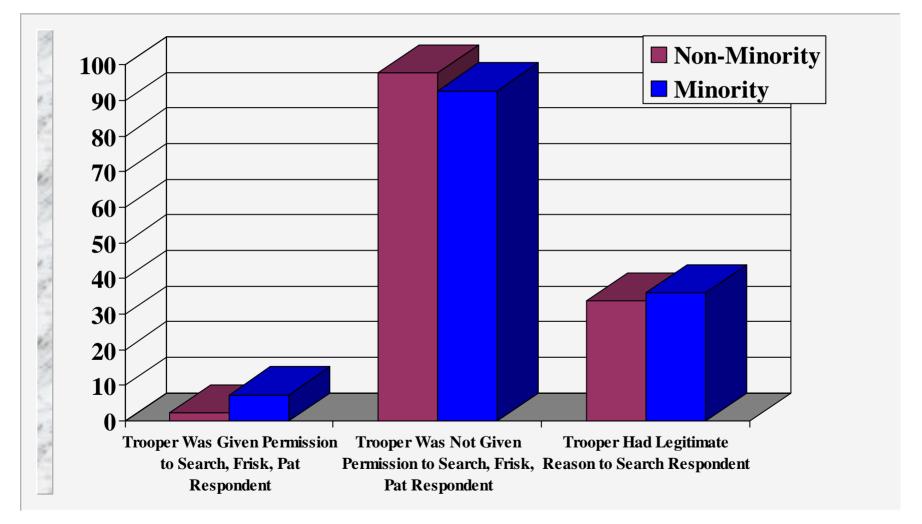
#### Driver Contact Responses Personal Search

- Trooper did not ask permission to search, frisk, pat respondent (n=2220)
- Trooper asked permission to search, frisk, pat respondent (n=74)
- Trooper had legitimate reason to search respondent (n=49)
- Trooper did not have legitimate reason to search respondent (n=96)

# Non-Minority vs. Minority Vehicle Searches



# Non-Minority vs. Minority Personal Searches



#### Section Five

#### Attitudes

# Racial Profiling: Minority v. Non-Minority

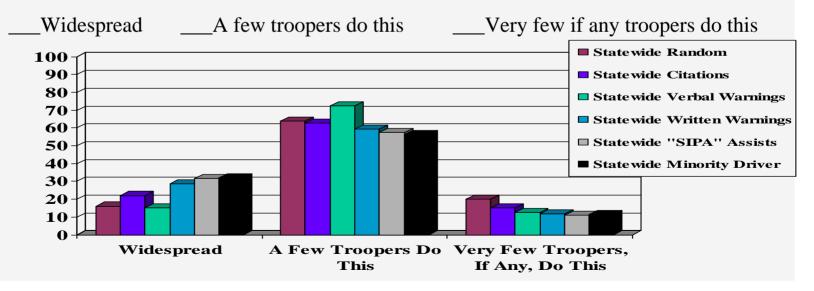
Question: "It has been reported nationally that some police officers stop citizens of certain racial or ethnic groups because officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. Do you believe that troopers in the Washington State Patrol engage in this practice when they decide to stop drivers?" Yes No If you answered "Yes" above, how widespread do you think this practice is within the WSP? Widespread \_\_\_\_A few troopers do this \_\_\_\_Very few if any troopers do this 100 **■** Non-Minority 90 **■** Minority 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 Widespread A Few Troopers Do Very Few, If Any, **Troopers Do This** This

## Comparison: Racial Profiling

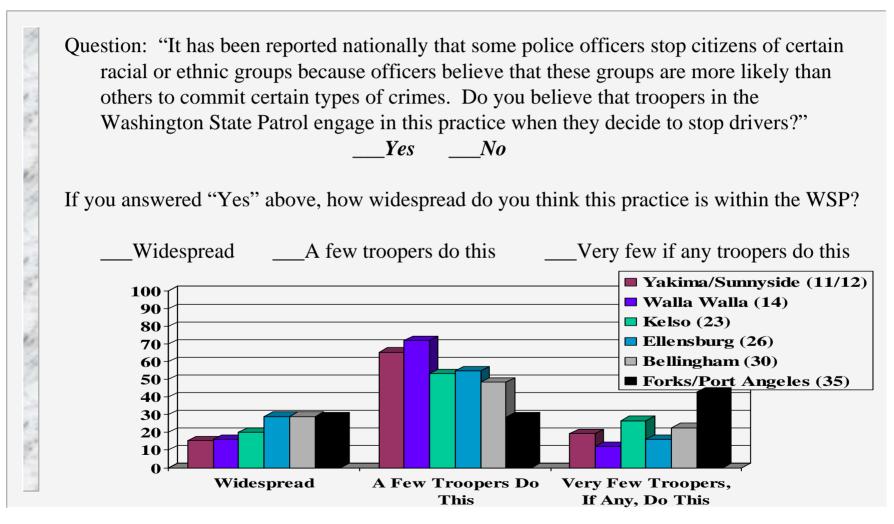
Question: "It has been reported nationally that some police officers stop citizens of certain racial or ethnic groups because officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes. Do you believe that troopers in the Washington State Patrol engage in this practice when they decide to stop drivers?"

\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

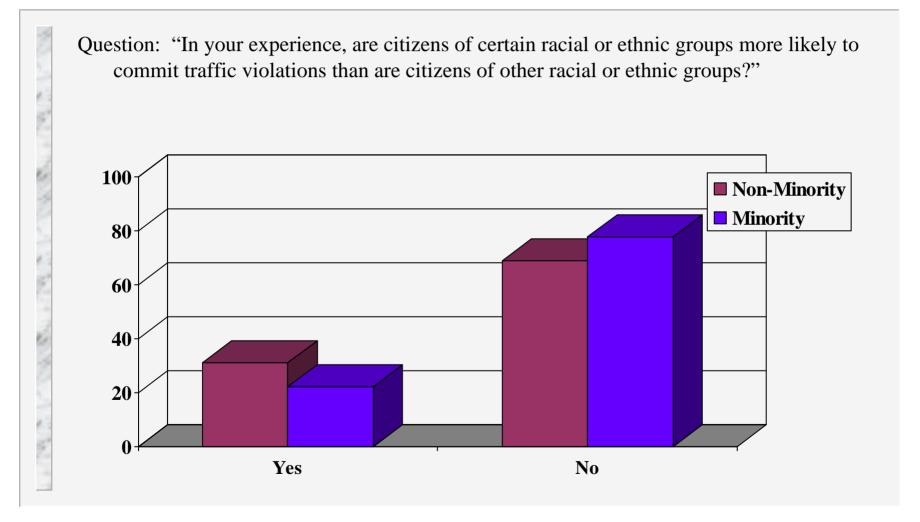
If you answered "Yes" above, how widespread do you think this practice is within the WSP?



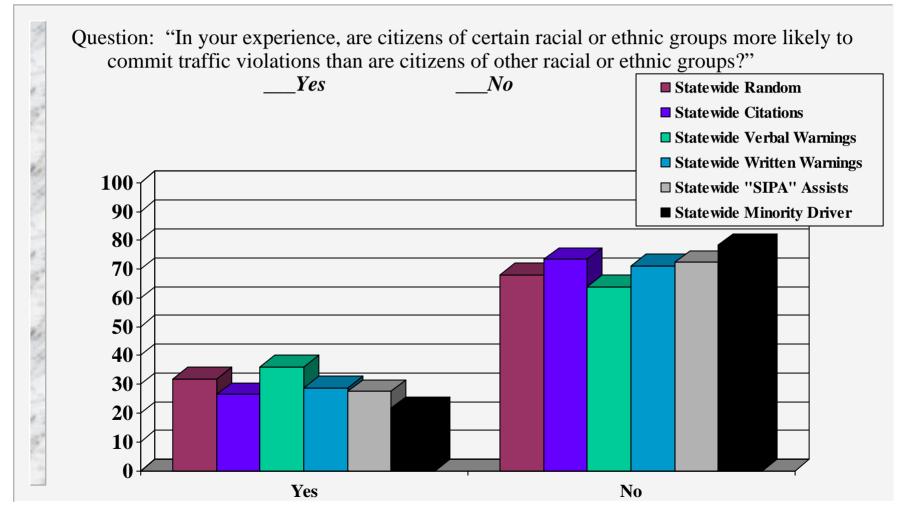
## Racial Profiling: APA-Specific



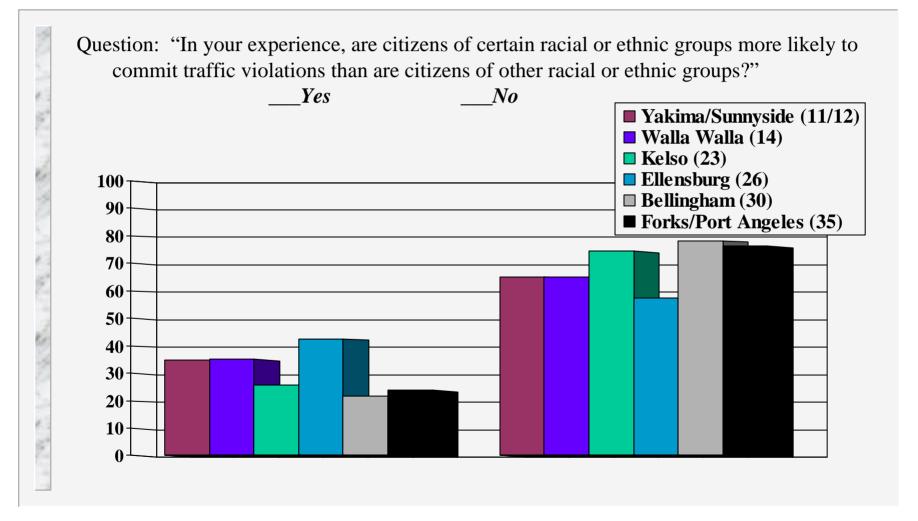
# Citizen Perceptions of Frequency of Violations by Racial/Ethnic Groups



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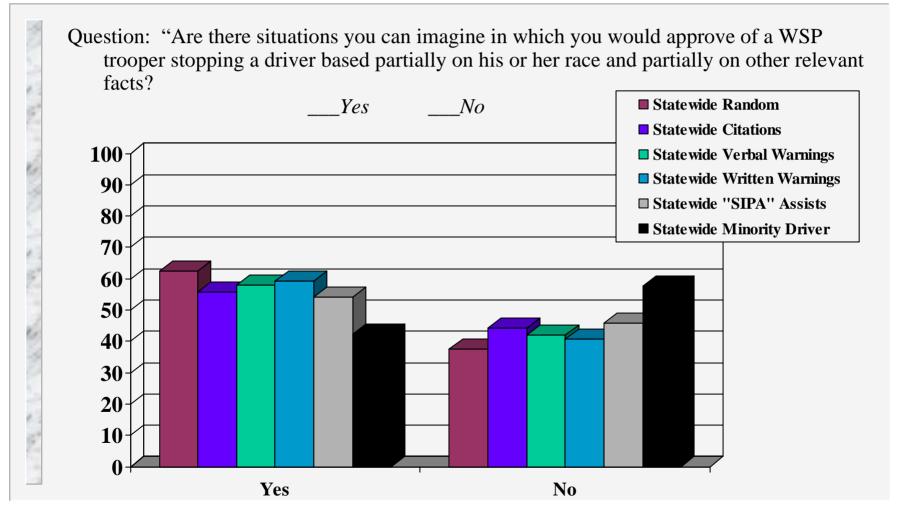
# Citizen Perceptions of Frequency of Violations by Racial/Ethnic Groups



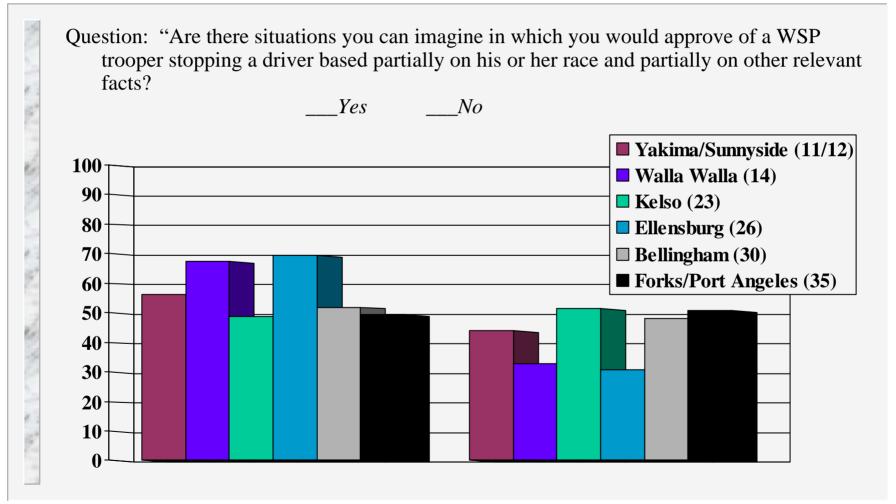
# Situational Discretion of Racial Profiling

Question: "Are there situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a WSP trooper stopping a driver based partially on his or her race and partially on other relevant facts? Yes 100 **■** Non-Minority Minority 80 60 40 20 Yes No

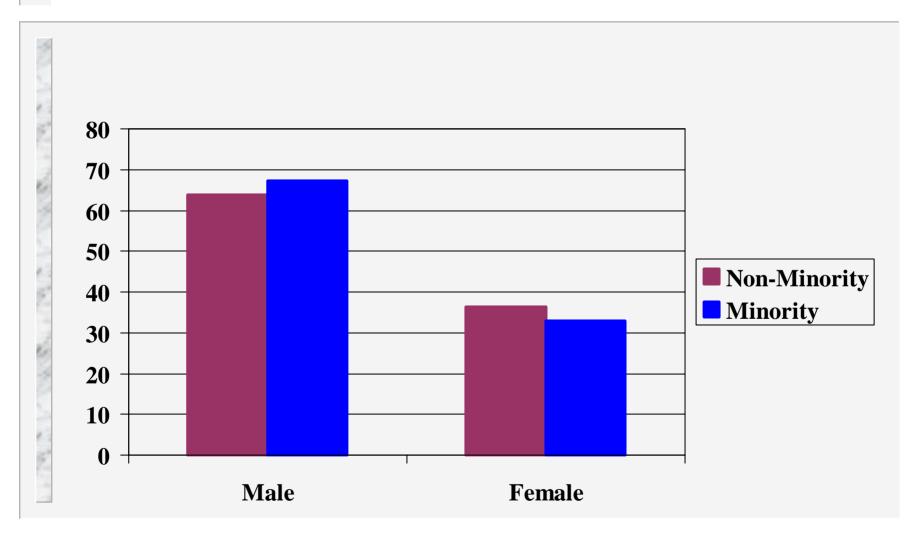
# Situational Discretion of Racial Profiling



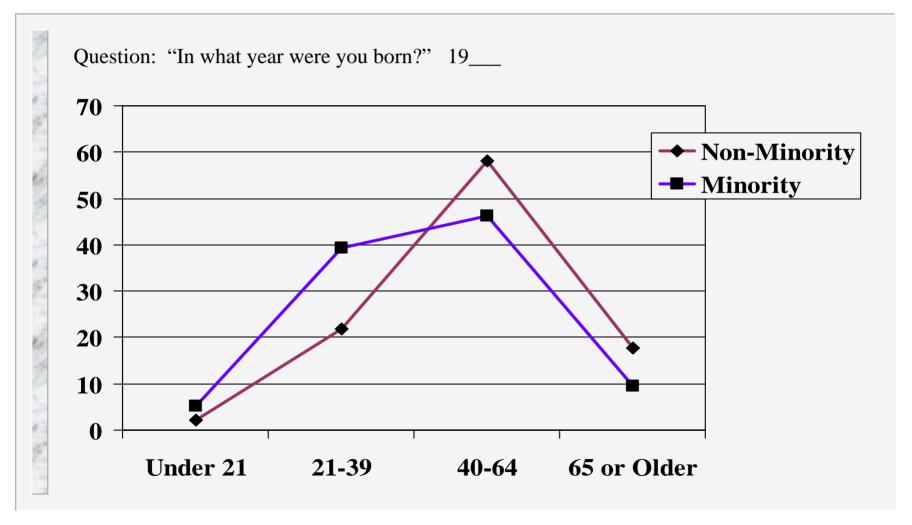
# Situational Discretion of Racial Profiling



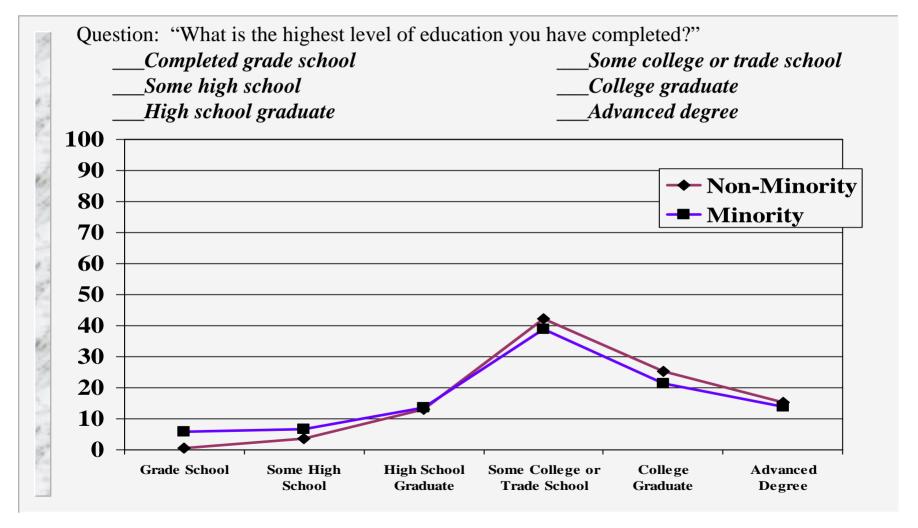
### Gender of Respondents



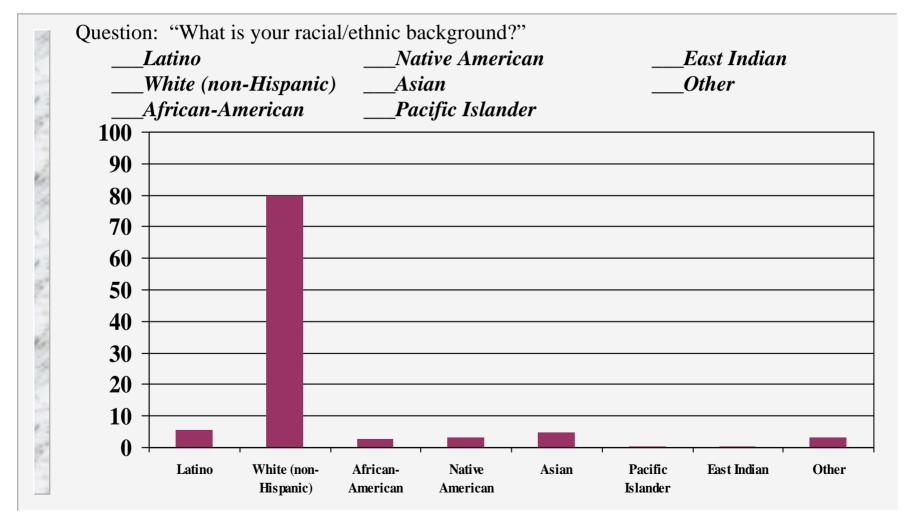
### Age of Respondents



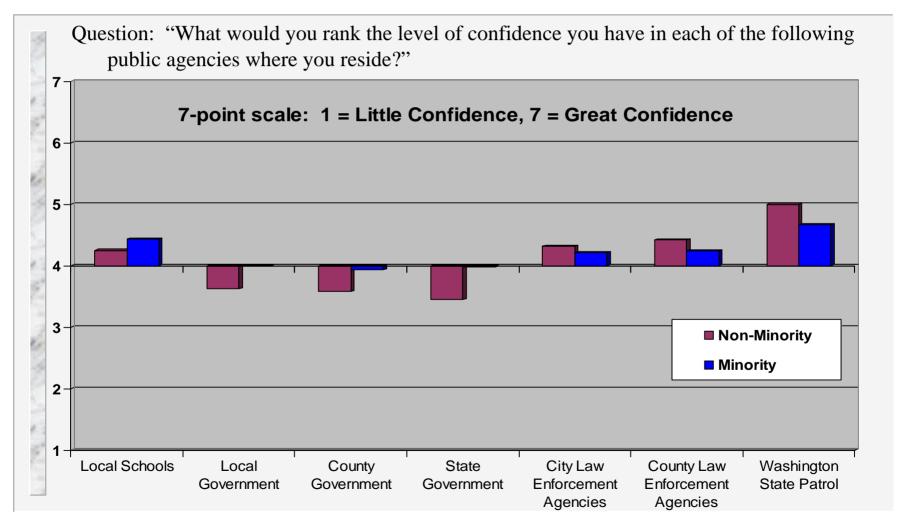
### Education of Respondents



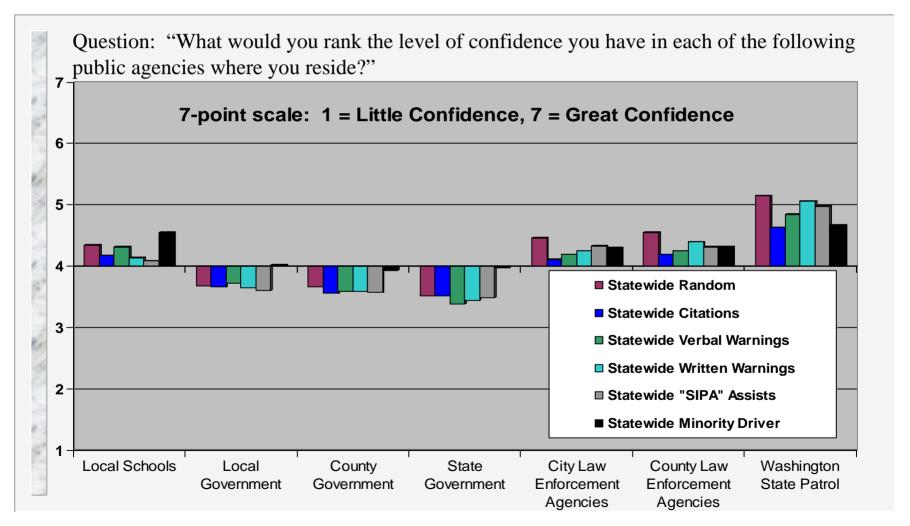
### Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



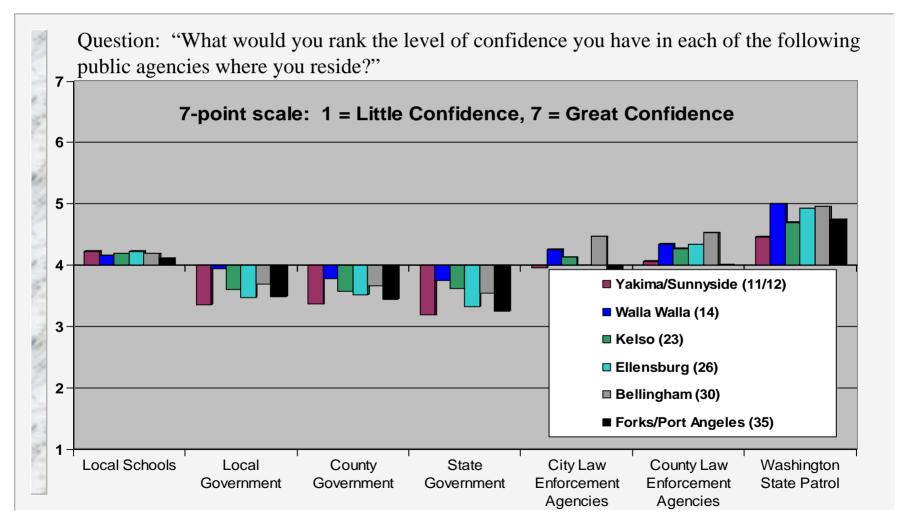
#### Level of Confidence in Public Agencies



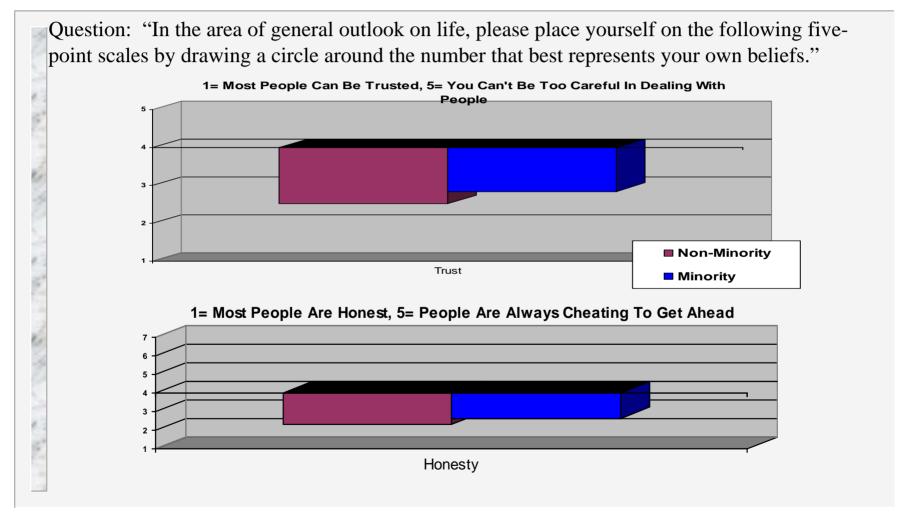
#### Level of Confidence in Public Agencies



#### Level of Confidence in Public Agencies



#### General Outlook on Life: Trust & Honesty

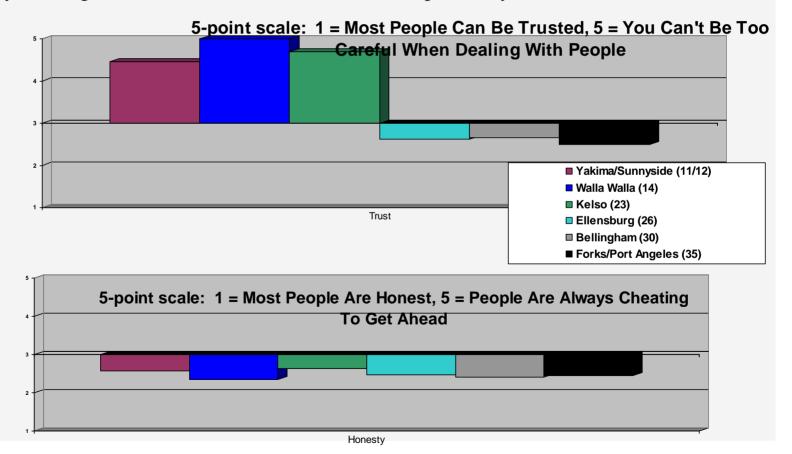


#### General Outlook on Life: Trust & Honesty

Question: "In the area of general outlook on life, please place yourself on the following fivepoint scales by drawing a circle around the number that best represents your own beliefs." 5-point scale: 1 = Most People Can Be Trusted, 5 = You Can't Be Too Careful In **Dealing With People** ■ Statewide Random Statewide Citations ■ Statewide Verbal Warnings Statewide Written Warnings ■ Statewide "SIPA" Assists ■ Statewide Minority Driver 5-point scale: 1 = Most People Are Honest, 5 = People Are Always Cheating To Get Ahead Honesty

#### General Outlook on Life: Trust & Honesty

■Question: "In the area of general outlook on life, please place yourself on the following five-point scales by drawing a circle around the number that best represents your own beliefs



## Focus Group Participation: Minority v. Non-Minority

Question: "Would you be interest in taking part in a "focus group" (small group discussion) hosted by the Washington State Patrol detachment in your area if one is held in the next six months? If so, with your permission we can provide your name and address to the Patrol on a separate list of persons who might be interest in being invited to focus group meetings."

	Non-Minority	Minority
Very Interested in Being Invited	286	91
Somewhat Interested in Being Invited	498	133
Not Interested in Being Invited	1348	316

## Focus Group Participation: Sample Frame

Question: "Would you be interest in taking part in a "focus group" (small group discussion) hosted by the Washington State Patrol detachment in your area if one is held in the next six months? If so, with your permission we can provide your name and address to the Patrol on a separate list of persons who might be interest in being invited to focus group meetings."

	Statewide Random	Statewide Citations	Statewide Verbal Warning	Statewide Written Warnings	Statewide "SIPA" Assists	Statewide Minority
Very Interested in Being Invited	120	26	20	47	52	51
Somewhat Interested in Being Invited	221	58	34	62	49	83
Not Interested in Being Invited	620	135	94	175	126	224

# Focus Group Participation: APA-Specific

Question: "Would you be interest in taking part in a "focus group" (small group discussion) hosted by the Washington State Patrol detachment in your area if one is held in the next six months? If so, with your permission we can provide your name and address to the Patrol on a separate list of persons who might be interest in being invited

to focus group meetings."

	Yakima/Sunny side (1112)	Walla Walla (14)	Kelso (23)	Ellensburg (26)	Bellingham (30)	Forks/Port Angeles (35)
Very Interested in Being Invited	7	15	10	11	13	10
Somewhat Interested in Being Invited	21	20	24	24	21	17
Not Interested in Being Invited	43	63	42	56	50	54

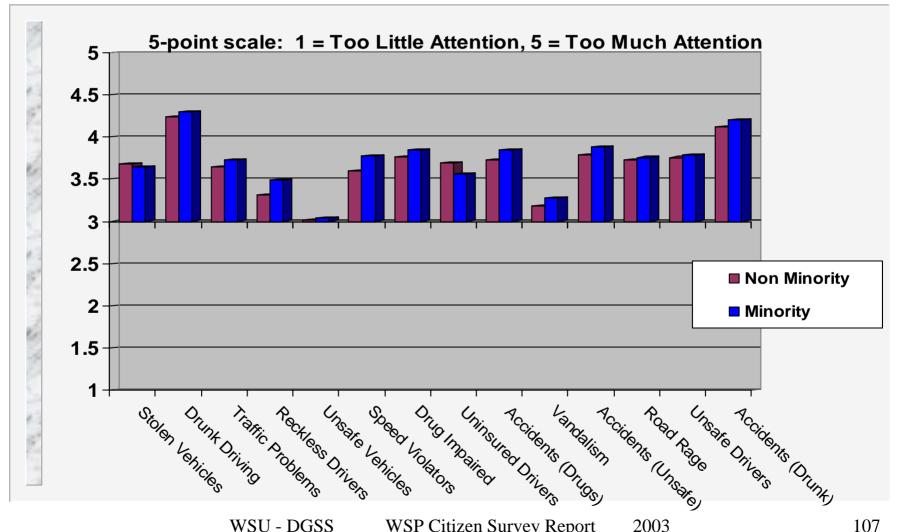
#### Section Six

#### Conclusion

#### Citizen Comment Themes

- Cell Phones and Inattentive Driving
- Civility of Other Drivers Declining
- Racial Profiling
- "Illegitimate" Reasons For Stopping Occurring
- Drunk Drivers Remain a Problem
- Commercial Operators Remain a Problem

## Citizen Perceptions: WSP Focus on Priority Problems



#### Conclusions

- Trends Still Very Good
- Overall Ratings Quite High
- Minorities May Rate Agency Lower Than Non-Minority Drivers
- Some Pluralistic Ignorance in Evidence on Racial Profiling
- Perception/Experience Dichotomy Exists
- Opportunities Present for Achieving Improved Perceptions
- Estimated Value of Vehicle Analysis

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